



Pseudocyesis

Richard Bronson, MD

(Fam Med 2014;46(2):136.)

We were interns
Eager to prove ourselves,
So when the Chief asked us
Each to examine her,
We agreed without a thought.

Nowadays, ultrasound
Paints its picture
Of fetal well-being
With the swipe of a probe
But then,
Ears and hands did the job.

Months of prenatal care
Fetal growth measured,
Heart beats noted in her chart
Yet I felt nothing
But the bulge of her belly;
Heard nothing
But the bowel's sounds.

One by one, the Chief
Called us into his office.
He listened to my dismay,
Pointed to an X-ray on his office wall.
An empty abdomen, but for gas!

“Nothing there,” he said. “Nothing!”
And he smiled.

CORRESPONDENCE: Address correspondence to Dr Bronson, Stony Brook University Medical Center, T0-080, Stony Brook, NY 11794-8091. 631-444-2731. Fax: 631-444-8954. richard.bronson@stonybrookmedicine.edu.