

ROLE PLAYER CARD		MEDICINE
SETTING	Suburban General Practice	
PATIENT	Following a week of epigastric pain (in the stomach and abdominal area), your doctor ordered a barium meal test for you. You have come back for the result. You are worried about the possibility of cancer. You had a similar episode of pain five years ago but took the prescribed anti-ulcer tablets for only two weeks.	
TASK	• Express your anxiety about the condition. • Could you have prevented the current episode of illness by having completed a longer course of treatment five years ago? • Insist on knowing what a gastroscopy involves. You don't like the sound of it at all. • Be difficult to reassure. You want to know all the possible causes of this pain, including cancer or other non-malignant causes.	

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DOCTOR	The patient has a recurrence of epigastric pain. The barium meal which you ordered shows an ulcer on the lesser curve of the stomach which may be malignant. He/she is a relatively new patient to your practice and you have no details of previous epigastric pain.	
TASK	• Explain the findings to the patient and the possibility of malignancy. • Question the patient about previous episodes of epigastric pain. • Advise that you will need to refer him/her urgently for a gastroscopy for a definite diagnosis. Explain the procedure as simply as possible (insert a tube with a camera, feed it into the stomach, take pictures and specimens). • Find out what information about the condition the patient wants now. Try to reassure the patient by mentioning other possible, non-malignant causes (e.g., ulcer, indigestion, etc.) There are lots of other possible causes, such as...	