

A View from the Head End Medical cartoons to ease the pain

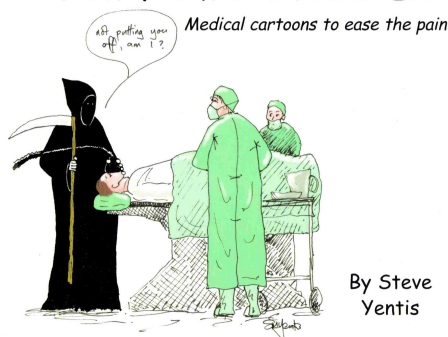
By Steve Yentis

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Those of you who have been reading this journal for some years may remember seeing several cartoons by Dr Steve Yentis.

Steve has been producing cartoons during quieter moments during his working day for the last 20 years, frequently capturing the moment on spare scraps of paper from patients' notes or on the backs of wrappers from items of equipment. Finally these have been gathered together into a book entitled 'A View from the Head End'.

A View from the Head End



The collection of drawings presents a humorous slant on those moments of frustration/boredom/inactivity we have all experienced at some time within the working day in theatres and related areas, viewed from an anaesthetist's perspective or as suggested on the rear cover of the book, "from the Head End (by far the most important end)"

The book is divided into twelve chapters, each with a theme, and gently pokes fun at a variety of subjects including colleagues, technology, ward staff, surgeons (of course!) and (dare I say it?) – ODPs.

Some of the cartons made me laugh out loud with their simple but wry observations whilst the odd one caused me to remember individual anaesthetists I have worked with. Particular favourites include the table fitting falling on the toe (just when things could get no worse), and the one with the caption 'Just wait til he asks for the swan....' (how often I have had the same thought as the cartoon character!). In the forward Steve apologises for the quality of some of the art work, but somehow the spontaneity of the drawings captures the humour and immediacy of the situation more effectively than a beautifully drawn, studio produced masterpiece.

This book might make suitable present for a work mate and would be a welcome addition to any anaesthetic room when the need arises to fill some of those moments which led to its creation.

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