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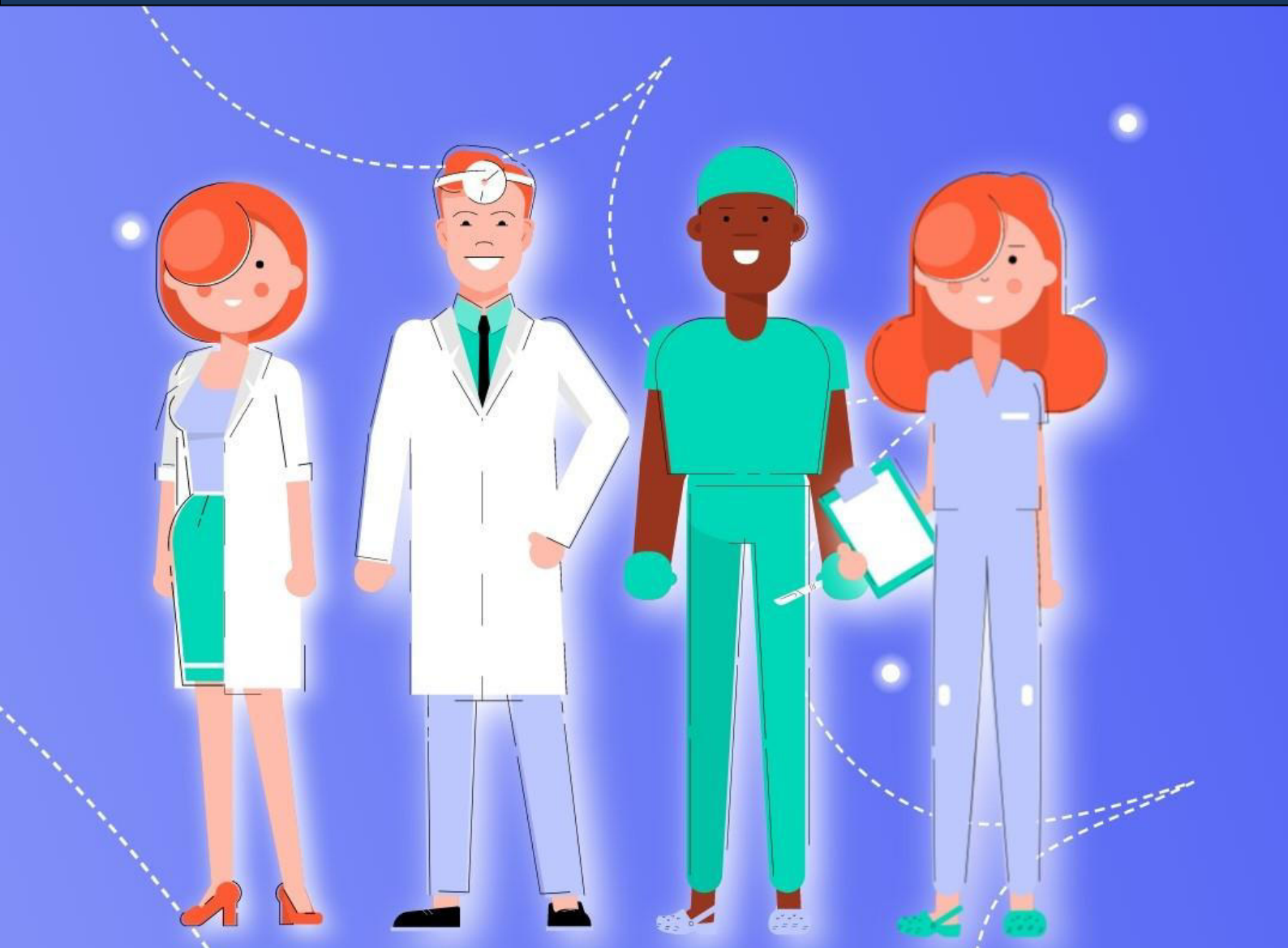
B1 Level / Unit 3

Advanced Medical Consultation



VSL on Medicine

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3. Advanced Medical Consultation

3.1. Simulations of complex medical consultations, where students practice discussing symptoms, differential diagnoses, and treatment plans.

3.1.1. Structure of Medical Consultation Simulation

Case 1: Patient with Respiratory Symptoms

Case Description:
• **Patient**: John, 45 years old, deaf
• **Symptoms**: Persistent cough for 3 weeks, shortness of breath, chest pain when breathing deeply, mild fever.
• **Medical History**: Smoker for 20 years, no history of severe respiratory diseases.
 	
Consultation
• **Doctor: Good afternoon, John. Let's talk about your symptoms. How are you feeling?**
• **Patient (John):**
  ○ **Cough**: (Sign) Persistent cough.
  ○ **Shortness of breath**: (Sign) Shortness of breath.
  ○ **Chest pain**: (Sign) Chest pain.
• **Doctor: I understand. The cough started 3 weeks ago? And the shortness of breath, when did it start?**
• **Patient (John):**
  ○ **Cough: (Sign) Yes, 3 weeks.**
  ○ **Shortness of breath: (Sign) Started 1 week ago.**
• **Doctor: Do you have a fever?**
• **Patient (John):**
  ○ **Fever: (Sign) Yes, mild fever.**
• **Doctor: Do you smoke? How many cigarettes per day?**
• **Patient (John):**
  ○ **Smoker**: (Sign) Yes, 20 cigarettes a day.
 	
Differential Diagnosis
• **Doctor (discussing with colleagues)**:
  ○ **Chronic bronchitis**: Persistent cough, smoking history.
  ○ **Pneumonia**: Cough, fever, chest pain.
  ○ **Lung cancer**: Persistent cough, chest pain, smoking history.
• **Observer (notes)**:
  ○ **Key symptoms**: Persistent cough, shortness of breath, chest pain, fever.
  ○ **History**: Heavy smoker.

Treatment Plan

- **Doctor**: John, we need to run some tests to understand better. I'll order a chest X-ray and a spirometry test. In the meantime, it's important for you to try to quit smoking.
- **Patient (John):**
  - **X-ray**: (Sign) Chest X-ray.
  - **Spirometry**: (Sign) Breathing test.

Quit smoking: (Sign) I'll try.

Case 2: Patient with Gastrointestinal Symptoms

Case Description:

- **Patient**: Mary, 35 years old, deaf
- **Symptoms**: Intense abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, high fever, jaundice.
- **Medical History**: No known prior medical conditions.

Consultation

- **Doctor**: Good afternoon, Mary. Tell me about what you're feeling.
- **Patient (Mary)**:
  - **Abdominal pain**: (Sign) Severe abdominal pain.
  - **Nausea and vomiting**: (Sign) Nausea and vomiting.
  - **Fever**: (Sign) High fever.
- **Doctor**: How long ago did the pain start?
- **Patient (Mary)**:
  - **Abdominal pain**: (Sign) Two days.
- **Doctor**: Have you noticed any change in the color of your skin or eyes?
- **Patient (Mary)**:
  - **Jaundice**: (Sign) Yellow skin and eyes.

Differential Diagnosis

- **Doctor (discussing with colleagues)**:
  - **Appendicitis**: Severe abdominal pain, fever.
  - **Cholecystitis**: Abdominal pain, jaundice, fever.
  - **Hepatitis**: Jaundice, abdominal pain, high fever.
- **Observer (notes)**:
  - **Key symptoms**: Abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, jaundice.
  - **History**: No known prior medical conditions.

Treatment Plan

- **Doctor**: Mary, we'll run some blood tests and an abdominal ultrasound to find out the cause of your pain. In the meantime, we'll give you medication for pain and nausea.
- **Patient (Mary)**:

- **Blood tests**: (Sign) Blood test.
- **Ultrasound**: (Sign) Ultrasound.
- **Medication**: (Sign) Pain medication.

Post-Simulation Evaluation

1. **Feedback**: The observer and colleagues provide constructive feedback on communication, clarity of signs, and accuracy of medical information.
2. **Discussion**: Discuss the strengths and areas for improvement, focusing on the accuracy of signs and the ability to explain complex medical terms.

Repetition: Repeat the simulation if necessary, incorporating the feedback received.

3.2. Practice expressing and understanding detailed and multifaceted medical concepts

3.2.1. Detailed Expression of Symptoms

Case: Patient with Cardiac Symptoms

Case Description:

- **Patient**: Carlos, 58 years old, deaf
- **Symptoms**: Chest pain, sweating, palpitations, shortness of breath, nausea.

Interpretation in Sign Language:

1. **Chest Pain**:
   - **Sign**: LGP; LIS; TID
   - **Detailed Description**: “The pain started last night. It is a strong pain, like being squeezed.”
2. **Sweating**:
   - **Sign**: LGP; LIS; TID
   - **Detailed Description**: “I am sweating a lot, especially at night.”
3. **Palpitations**:
   - **Sign**: LGP; LIS; TID
   - **Detailed Description**: “My heart beats very fast and strong, it feels like it’s going to burst out of my chest.”
4. **Shortness of Breath**:
   - **Sign**: LGP; LIS; TID
   - **Detailed Description**: “I feel like I can’t breathe properly, especially when I move.”
5. **Nausea**:
   - **Sign**: LGP; LIS; TID

Detailed Description: “I feel nauseous and sometimes I feel like I’m going to vomit.”

3.2.2. Discussion of Differential Diagnoses

Case: Analyzing possible diagnoses for Carlos
Interpretation in Sign Language:
1. **Angina**: ○ **Sign**: Closed fist on the chest, followed by circular movements indicating pain. ○ **Detailed Description**: "Angina is chest pain caused by a lack of oxygen to the heart. It usually occurs during physical exertion."
2. **Myocardial Infarction**: ○ **Sign**: Closed fist pressing on the chest, followed by a quick movement indicating urgency. ○ **Detailed Description**: "Myocardial infarction is when a part of the heart doesn't receive enough blood, causing intense pain and possibly damage to the heart."
3. **Arrhythmia**: ○ **Sign**: Hand on the chest with irregular movements, simulating irregular heartbeats. ○ **Detailed Description**: "Arrhythmia is an abnormal heart rhythm. It can cause palpitations and a feeling of faintness."

3.2.3. Developing Treatment Plans

Case: Creating a treatment plan for Carlos
Interpretation in Sign Language:
1. **Medication**: ○ **Sign**: LGP; LIS; TID ○ **Detailed Description**: "You will need to take medications to help control the pain and prevent future heart problems."
2. **Lifestyle Changes**: ○ **Sign**: LGP; LIS; TID ○ **Detailed Description**: "It's important to change your diet, exercise regularly, and quit smoking to improve your heart health."
3. **Medical Follow-Up**: ○ **Sign**: LGP; LIS; TID ○ **Detailed Description**: "You will need regular appointments with a cardiologist to monitor your progress and adjust the treatment as necessary."

3.2.4. Understanding Complex Medical Concepts

Case: Explanation of Coronary Artery Bypass Surgery
Interpretation in Sign Language:
1. **Coronary Artery Bypass**: ○ **Sign**: LGP; LIS; TID ○ **Detailed Description**: “Coronary artery bypass surgery involves using a vein from another part of the body to create a new route for blood to reach the heart.”
2. **Surgical Process**: ○ **Sign**: LGP; LIS; TID ○ **Detailed Description**: “During the surgery, the doctor will make a cut on the chest and connect the new vein to improve blood flow.”