

Monday, February 13. 2006

Psych Psucks

I have been dreading psychiatry. I get nervous around aggressive, unstable people, and for some unknown reason I often attract more than my fair share of attention from people like that. They can smell my fear, I guess. Today was my first day at my outpatient site, a locked ward in a small hospital. I walked into the ward, and it smelled like piss and some lady was screaming, "Help me" over and over again. Then, I was assigned to my first patient. Guess what his deal is??? He's been punching people. Some advice from my attending: "He's slowly getting better. He has not punched anyone in the last few days. You can tell when he gets mad, he gets a dark look in his eyes. Watch out for that look. Also, don't go within arms length of him. And if you wear glasses, take them off so if he punches you, he won't hit them and break them. And take your keys off from around your neck." Guess which future doctor career I WON'T be choosing?!?!?!
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Posted by Mia in Medical School at 18:45

I couldn't agree more - psych scared me. A lot. Just remember what you need to get out of it - get comfortable asking people about their suicidality and delusions, etc., because that stuff comes up everywhere. Leave the rest to the people who really love that stuff.

Plus, it was so weird to go 6 weeks and barely touch a patient.

Anonymous on Feb 13 2006, 20:05

Pretty silly assignment for a medical student starting a psych rotation. Also very silly instructions. Take your glasses off, you can't see the dark look in his eyes. Duh-uh. Can you quietly and politely complain?

Anonymous on Feb 14 2006, 16:31

Doesn't seem like an ideal introduction to psych to me -- I mean, inpatient locked wards make up such a tiny fraction of the psych patient population these days. You'd think an outpatient clinic would give you more relevant experience. Sorry your experience has sucked so far.

Anonymous on Feb 14 2006, 18:28

I remember when one of my med school classmates decided he wanted to learn how to do IM injections while we were on psych. He was giving a Prolixin shot to a paranoid schizophrenic. Later that day, the patient signed out AMA. We told our classmate it was because of his injection technique....

I was in my first trimester with my first child when I did that rotation. I felt very vulnerable and did NOT enjoy it - especially the night call at the VA ward with the bulletproof glass in the nurses' station!

Anonymous on Mar 3 2006, 20:45