

"What else could it be?" A scoping review of questions for patients to ask throughout the diagnostic process.

October 30, 2024

Hill MA, Coppinger T, Sedig K, et al. "What else could it be?" A scoping review of questions for patients to ask throughout the diagnostic process. J Patient Saf. 2024;20(8):529-534.

doi:10.1097/pts.0000000000001273.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/what-else-could-it-be-scoping-review-questions-patients-ask-throughout-diagnostic-process>

Patients are encouraged to ask questions during the [diagnostic](#) process, and numerous [organizations](#) and agencies offer patient-facing question prompt lists (QPL) to support [patient-provider](#) communication. In this review, more than 5,500 questions were identified from QPL. Most lists were intended for specific health conditions (e.g., cancer), with most questions related to treatment options. Lists contained 3 to 113 questions, with an average of 21, which the authors state is likely too many to be addressed in a 10- to 20-minute ambulatory visit.