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Author: Erwin Jiayuan Khoo, Zhong Ning L. Goh

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In the Moment

Feels not right stabbing a child

Erwin Jiayuan Khoo, MRCPCH
Zhong Ning L Goh

Please insert the following brief bio on proof page 1, at the bottom of the left column.

ZNL Goh is a medical student at International Medical University in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. EJ Khoo is a senior lecturer in the Department of Pediatrics. Goh wrote this essay describing his experience after reflecting on the event with Dr Khoo. Dr Khoo facilitated Goh's reflections and contributed significantly by sharing his experience that focused on the dilemma of difficult venipuncture in children as well as its ethical concerns.

I walked down the corridors, past the cubicles of patients and their parents who were settling down for the night. It had been a long day. I was just about to exit the ward when the sight of a teary-eyed mother stopped me.

She looked familiar, I thought. As I approached her, it dawned on me that she was the mother of a child who had presented earlier in the day with seizures; we had discussed this case with our lecturer, learning about the differential diagnoses of seizures and their corresponding management.

"Selamat petang Puan, dah lama ke tunggu kat sini?" *Good evening Ma'am, have you been waiting out here for a while now?*

"Lama sangat lah, dah tunggu lima belas minit ni." *Yes, it has been a long 15 minutes.*

I could hear hushed voices coming from inside the treatment room, urgent tones, punctuated occasionally by the opening and closing of drawers. My curiosity piqued.

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