

“Excuse Me!”

In the Emergency Department

During my second year as an emergency physician, I worked in a community hospital in Los Angeles. One day, the emergency department received a call that the paramedics were transporting a woman who experienced a cardiac arrest in a nearby physician’s office. When she arrived at the hospital, we set to work, performing the usual resuscitation mea-

asures. After several minutes, the “body” suddenly sat bolt upright and gave an enormous belch. With a surprised look on her face, the patient said, “Oh, excuse me!” The code team stood and stared at her in disbelief and then broke out in relieved laughter.

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