

Things not to say to women doctors AND things to say – for patients and the public



Women doctors have the knowledge, skills and experience to do the job. They should be treated like professionals. Do not say the first thing that comes into your head. Say what is needed to get the doctor's opinion or advice. Please treat each person with respect. Avoid personal remarks and focus on your health. Different places need different ways of speaking. You would not make jokes at airport security that would cause a security alert.

Patients/relatives Don't say:	Patients/relatives Do say:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When is the doctor coming? • You are too pretty/young to be a doctor • I thought you were the nurse • You're a lot prettier than my normal doctor! • How can you operate if you are pregnant? • I was expecting a man • I'm happy to help with your training • Are you the junior doctor? • Where are you from? • Are you married [or any similar personal question]? • Anything sexual, so don't say: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ You have a nice bottom ○ You can examine me anytime, ha ha! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you explain the test results? • Are you the Consultant? [or Specialist, or GP] • What are the Benefits, Risks and Alternatives of this and what happens if I do Nothing? [These are the "BRAN" questions] • What might go wrong? And how likely is this? • What is keeping me in hospital? • How much will it help if I improve general things – like exercise, sleep and nutrition? • Do you have an information leaflet about this? • Can I think things through? • Can I have another appointment to make a proper decision? • What would you recommend?
Please also: don't stare, don't touch	