



# Trypanophobia

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“They’re killing me!” she cries,  
Hobbling, clutching her knees.  
This cane-free, tough matron’s fortitude awes me.  
“Knee injection?” I offer.  
“No way. Terrified of needles!”  
Discuss diabetes, hypertension. Finish visit.  
“Doc, where’s my Ortho referral?”  
“For what?” I ask, perplexed.  
“For surgery!”  
“Surgery before needles?!”  
“Knife over needles any day.”  
Nonplussed, I consult Ortho.

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