Letters to the editor

We welcome original letters of less than 500 words; we may edit them for clarity and length. Email letters to journal@doctorsofbc.ca and include your city or town of residence, telephone number, and email address. Please disclose any competing interests.

Re: Patient portals and radiology reports: Toward patient-centred communication

The recent article about the need for clear language in radiology reports that are to be understandable by the average patient [*BCMJ* 2026:68:211-213] put me in mind of a report I received in the 1970s: "The patient presented for a barium enema. The barium was administered. However, the procedure could not be completed as the individual absquatulated."

With a mental image of an examining room covered in a frightful mess, I reached for my dictionary, discovering that this early-19th-century American term indicated that the patient had simply pushed off and left the facility, full of contrast material.

—Anthony Walter, MB BCh
Coldstream

https://doi.org/10.66794/2c95