Coping with uncertainty

How good are you?

The doctor, having failed to make a firm diagnosis shows intolerance of uncertainty by a hurried rush to treatment investigation or referral, without thought for the patient's convenience, or proper concern for NHS economy.					The doctor, having excluded immediate risks is prepared to 'use time as a tool' to allow things to become clear, while giving the patient support and gaining his/her trust; when this is not possible he or she uses diagnostic and referral facilities appropriately, economically and with due regard to the patient's feelings.					
1 C	2 C	3 C	4 C	5 C	6 C	7 🖸	8 С	90	10 🖸	
Has little understanding of this.		Attempts to do this but is not skilful and sometimes runs int difficulty.			•	usually recogni	Attempts to do this and is usually successful but recognises his/her limitations.			

Subscales

The doctor:

		Rarely	Occas ionally	Fairly frequently	Often	Usually
(a)	Once he or she is sure that the patient is not endangered, is prepared to wait and watch.		C	C	C	C
(b)	If he or she has decided on 'masterly inactivity' sets out to gain the patient's trust for the course of action.	s	C	C	C	C
(c)	Where necessary chooses	C	٦	C	C	C

investigations which take into account both the feelings and convenience of the patient and also health service costs.

Notes for raters

This area of behaviour is best assessed by case discussion, asking, "Why did you do that?", "Had you thought whether. ..?", "Couldn't it have waited?"