HEARTSINK PATIENTS

Categories

**Groves J**

- The dependent clinger - While thanking the doctor for all he’s done, the patient is desperate for reassurance and shows this by returning repeatedly with an array of symptoms.
- The entitled demander - This patient views the doctor as a barrier to receiving services and complains when every request is not met.
- The manipulative help-rejector - Has a quenchless need for emotional supplies and returns repeatedly to tell the doctor the treatment did not work.
- The self-destructive denier - Although possibly suffering from serious disease makes no alteration in lifestyle. It seems to the doctor that the patient’s aim is to defeat any attempts to preserve his life.

**Colquhoun D**

- The never get betters
- Not one but two
- The medicosocially deprived
- The wicked manipulators
- The sad

**Gerrard T**

- Black holes
- Family complexity
- Punitive behaviour
- Personal licks to the doctor’s character
- Differences in culture and belief
- Disadvantage, poverty and deprivation
- Medical complexity
- Medical connections
- Wicked manipulative and playing games
- Secrets
- Other terms used to describe heartsink patients:
- Among the most difficult are ‘somatisers’ who return with chronically unexplained physical symptoms.