

Sight-Saving Neighborly Advice

Powerful Patient Event

November 15, 2009

Richard Munsen, MD

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Andrew Schorr:

So I'm going to walk over to my friend Rick Munsen here who's also an ophthalmologist. Rick I want to ask you about something. You told the story on one of our Patient Power programs about your neighbor who just offhandedly described certain vision symptoms that maybe he didn't recognize as a problem, and I think there are a lot of us, particularly men, who try to ignore certain symptoms sometimes but yet by letting them go we're not helping ourselves. Can you just retell that story of what happened and how you were able to help?

Dr. Munsen:

Well I just had a good relationship with my neighbor, and I knew he was the kind of person that didn't like to go to doctors, so when he started talking to me about this I just listened, and then I just gave him advice that this is a vision problem, and I have an opening in my office tomorrow afternoon, because that's what I do, and I'd be happy to see you.

So he said, 'I'll be there.' And his wife just thanked me over and over so many times. She said, 'Well he's been complaining of this for a while, but thanks for listening and thanks for getting him into your office because that's what he needed was that little bit of push.' But I just like the Patient Power program because I like the fact that you do have power, and as patients we need to be our own advocates, and I like what your program emphasizes Andrew.

Andrew Schorr:

Thank you. I used to think doctors never got sick, but you get the impression that we're all patients whether you have an M.D. or and R.N. or any other letters after your name.

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