

# Ulcerative Colitis

Hank Green

I have a complicated relationship with the distal portion  
Of my large intestine, also known as the colon  
I started feeling kinda shitty when I turned 23  
I have a complicated relationship with the distal portion  
Of my large intestine, also known as the colon  
I started feeling kinda shitty when I turned 23  
And then the pain got worse and worse every day  
And the days turned into weeks

I finally went to see the doctor and I pooped into a cup  
And then a few weeks after that he stuck this camera up my butt  
The camera was in a tube, and the tube pumped out air  
So that my colon could inflate and they could look around in there

When I woke up the doctor was looking at my chart  
I called his attention to me with a fifteen minute fart  
He said "Son I hate to tell you cause I know you're not gonna like this  
But they got a name for what you have and it's called ulcerative colitis

And in those seven syllables there's a mess of shitty news  
It's likely that you've had your last healthy-feeling poos  
It's like road rash on your colon, you'll bleed and it'll hurt  
And no one knows what causes it and there is no cure

And yeah your chances of cancer have gone up a bit  
But colon cancer's curable if you keep your eye on it  
But mostly what will piss you off is how you're gonna pay  
I know you're not insured and you'll probably stay that way

See insurance companies hate to deal with sick folks like you  
They don't like taking money from folks they might have to give it back to  
And your pills are gonna cost you both your arms and at least one leg  
I suggest you go to Canada and get on your knees and beg

Because here the costs are as high as the market can bear  
And they can bear a lot compared with soiled underwear"  
I laid there on that bed and thought how I used to like to poo  
I thought maybe there was a mistake, how could this be true

I asked the doctor, pleading, begging if he was really sure  
And if he was how could it be that there really was no cure  
"The only cure we have," he said, "is to take the whole thing out  
And then to get your movements out we install a little spout"

I told him that I'd rather take a thousand thousand dollar pills  
He agreed and sent me home with some similar sounding bills  
Now really all I've learned, besides the importance of fiber  
Is the health care system's more screwed up than a fifty year old Freud  
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