

Case Description – General Medical Interpretive Report

John G., a 55-year-old employee of an automobile manufacturing firm, was seen for a medical evaluation of severe gastrointestinal complaints. The medical examination was negative, and he was referred to a health psychologist to determine if his frequent medical visits and chronic “weak stomach” complaints were psychological in origin.

Mr. G. has a history of stomach problems in recent months, for which he has sought medical attention on two occasions. His medical history includes two hospitalizations: the first resulted from injuries he received in a farming accident when he was 19; the second occurred when he had an appendectomy at age 21. His current symptoms include severe pain in his left side, constipation, low energy, and lack of interest in activities that he used to enjoy.

In the initial interview, Mr. G. was cooperative and open about his medical symptoms but was reluctant to discuss possible psychological factors. He stated that his symptoms have intensified over the past few months. He reported that he drinks socially but denies having problems with alcohol use. He denied drug use. He takes over-the-counter medication for relief of his stomach distress.

Mr. G. is a high school graduate. He has been married for 30 years and has two adult children who are currently living in other states. His wife is employed in a floral shop. Mr. G. currently receives unemployment benefits because he has been on temporary layoff for the past six months as a result of company reorganization. A number of younger employees in his department have been laid off permanently, but because of his seniority he remains on temporary layoff. He is pessimistic about being called back to work and has

thought about seeking other employment, but he considers his age and limited experience outside the field of automobile assembly a hindrance. After he graduated from high school, he worked for several years on a family farm, but the farm was sold several years ago.