TWO WEEKS AGO...

THUMP

THUMP

UGH...

THUMP

THUMP

Asian Flush
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP

UGH!
Ugh...

Eh? What, again?

It's nothing, nothing

Just a little heartburn
Asian Flush

THE FOLLOWING WEEK...

TAKE A SEAT MISTER LIU, DOCTOR ROUHANI WILL BE WITH YOU IN JUST A MOMENT
SO TELL ME, WHAT’S BEEN BOTHERING YOU?

YOUR GENES AND YOU

WHAT IS PRECISION MEDICINE?
I'm having some pain in my chest.

Eh? What, again?

It's nothing.

You said heartburn...

I know.

Did you eat too much Hong Shao Rou last night?

... Well... where does it hurt?

It's not going away?!
FROM WHAT YOU'VE SAID, I DON'T THINK IT'S HEARTBURN. CAN I ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR HABITS?

SURE.

WELL... FLUSHING RED IS A SIGN YOU HAVE A GENETIC VARIANT THAT MAKES YOUR BODY LESS ABLE TO PROCESS A TOXIC BYPRODUCT IN CIGARETTES AND ALCOHOL CALLED ACETALDEHYDE. THE RED FLUSH IS YOUR BODY'S REACTION TO TOO MUCH OF THAT STUFF IN YOUR BLOOD.

I DO SMOKE, AND I DRINK OCCASIONALLY. AND I FLUSH RED, BUT WHY DO YOU ASK ABOUT THAT?

THE GENETIC VARIANT, ALDH2*9, IS COMMON IN PEOPLE OF EAST ASIAN DESCENT.

IT AFFECTS AN UPWARDS OF 560 MILLION PEOPLE OF MAINLAND CHINESE, TAIWANESE, JAPANESE AND KOREAN DESCENTS AROUND THE WORLD!
HAVING THIS GENETIC VARIANT, AND A HISTORY OF SMOKING AND DRINKING ALCOHOL PUTS YOU AT A HIGH RISK OF DEVELOPING ESOPHAGEAL CANCER.

BASED ON THAT I WOULD STRONGLY SUGGEST YOU QUIT SMOKING AND LIMIT ALCOHOL USE. THESE ALL INCREASE YOUR RISK.

I COULD HAVE CANCER?!

WELL, IT'S REALLY TOO EARLY TO SAY ANYTHING. BUT I'M GOING TO SCHEDULE YOU AN ENDOSCOPY...

WE'LL KNOW MORE AFTER WE'VE DONE THAT.
THE DAY AFTER...
WE'LL KNOW MORE AFTER WE'VE DONE THAT...

I'D ALSO LIKE TO SUGGEST THAT WE DO A SIMPLE GENETIC TEST FOR THE VARIANT...

IF YOU HAVE THIS ALDH2*2 VARIANT IT'S POSSIBLE YOUR CHILDREN HAVE IT AS WELL...
MOM, YOU OK?
I'm worried about your dad.
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