Tales from the Trenches:

When the AI Asked Me the Wrong Question

"6:14 a.m., post-call. The workroom smelled like burnt coffee; my scrub cap was still on because taking it off felt like admitting the night was over, and I was at the keyboard finishing a c-section op note myself instead of handing it to the residents as they needed the extra ten minutes for sign out. I'd run the AI interview prompt before, so I was on autopilot: click, answer, click, answer, barely reading the questions.

Then it asked me which side.

Laterality. On a cesarean section. I actually said "which side?" out loud to an empty room, like the computer had asked me what color the baby's eyes would be. There is no side. It doesn't have a side. That single wrong question did more to wake me up than the coffee had.

A few questions later, it wanted to know how I'd closed the peritoneum — patiently, confidently, like it was the most ordinary thing in the world to ask. I hadn't closed a peritoneum since 2010. For a second I pictured some earlier version of me, back when we still did that, and wondered if the model had learned its manners from a textbook that predated smartphones.

I caught both mid-interview, fixed them before a single word touched the chart, and finished the note in about the time it takes to microwave a bad cup of coffee; which is faster than I'd have managed typing it from scratch, and post-call, that mattered more than usual.

Here's the punch line I keep coming back to... it's an incredibly well-read intern who never sleeps, never complains, and never once glances at the calendar. It will ask you which side the cesarean was on with the exact same confidence it uses to ask what you had for breakfast and at 6 a.m., confidence is the one thing you're least equipped to argue with. Great copilot. Absolutely do not hand it the yoke."

Apply in Practice

Prompt of the month: Operative note

Link to Prompt

Evaluate the Tools

Doximity Ask

Free, HIPAA-compliant AI assistant built into Doximity, most U.S. doctors already have an account

Not a scribe, not a literature search (OpenEvidence), not a reference database (UpToDate) — it's a writing/workflow assistant for prior auth letters, insurance appeals, patient instructions, and referral letters, with peer-reviewed responses.

Because it's HIPAA-compliant, you can use patient-specific details, unlike a general consumer chatbot.

No institutional IT approval needed — usable today inside your existing Doximity account.

Link to Doximity Ask

Sources:
Doximity Ask FAQs – Help Center
Doximity Ask: Faster and Peer Reviewed

AI agent

Has anyone heard of an AI agent and wonder what it is?

An AI agent is different from a regular chatbot (like typing into ChatGPT): instead of just answering one question, it can take a goal, break it into steps, use other tools or data sources, and carry out a task with minimal step-by-step guidance from a person.

Think of the difference this way: a chatbot is like a resident who answers a question you ask. An agent is more like a resident who's been told "get this patient worked up" — it checks the chart, orders the right labs, flags an abnormal result, and drafts a note, checking back with you only when needed.

Agents typically combine three things: a large language model for reasoning/language, access to "tools" (a scheduling system, a lab database, an EHR), and some memory of the ongoing task, so they can complete multi-step work rather than a single reply.

In a clinical setting, examples include: an agent that reviews incoming referrals and pre-populates a prior-authorization request; one that monitors lab results overnight and drafts a triage message for the on-call team; one that handles routine patient scheduling and reminder calls/texts; or one that drafts a first pass of a clinic note from a visit transcript for the physician to review.

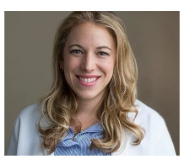
IBM's explainer: AI Agents in Healthcare.

AI Agents Explained: Guide for Non-Technical Professionals.

Interesting article on AI Scribes

Is anyone using an AI scribe? Let us know if it is helping or hurting productivity

Link to Article



Alexis Gimovsky, MD
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Weiping Lin, DO
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Contact Us

Email us for any comments/questions or if you would like to contribute to our next newsletter!

Email Us Here

Upcoming Conferences:

AIMed26

November 10-13, Renaissance Orlando at Seaworld

AIMed26 is the premier meeting where the brightest minds in artificial intelligence and medicine converge to shape the future of healthcare.

Advanced OB-GYN Ultrasound Symposium in Music City 2027

January 15-17, Nashville, TN

Geared heavily toward imaging, focusing on how AI-driven automated tools assist sonographers and physicians with structural anomalies and fetal echo imaging. This event offers 18.5 AMA PRA Category 1 / Cognate Credits. Agenda details are on the World Class CME platform.

AI and Women's Health Symposium

Save the Date for Spring 2027 (Prior event: April 30, 2026), Pittsburg, PA

Co-hosted by Magee-Womens Research Institute, Carnegie Mellon University, and the Allegheny Health Network. It bridges physical and mental health AI applications for women, including fetal monitoring and reproductive biology. Future schedules can be tracked on the Magee-Womens Research Institute events page

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