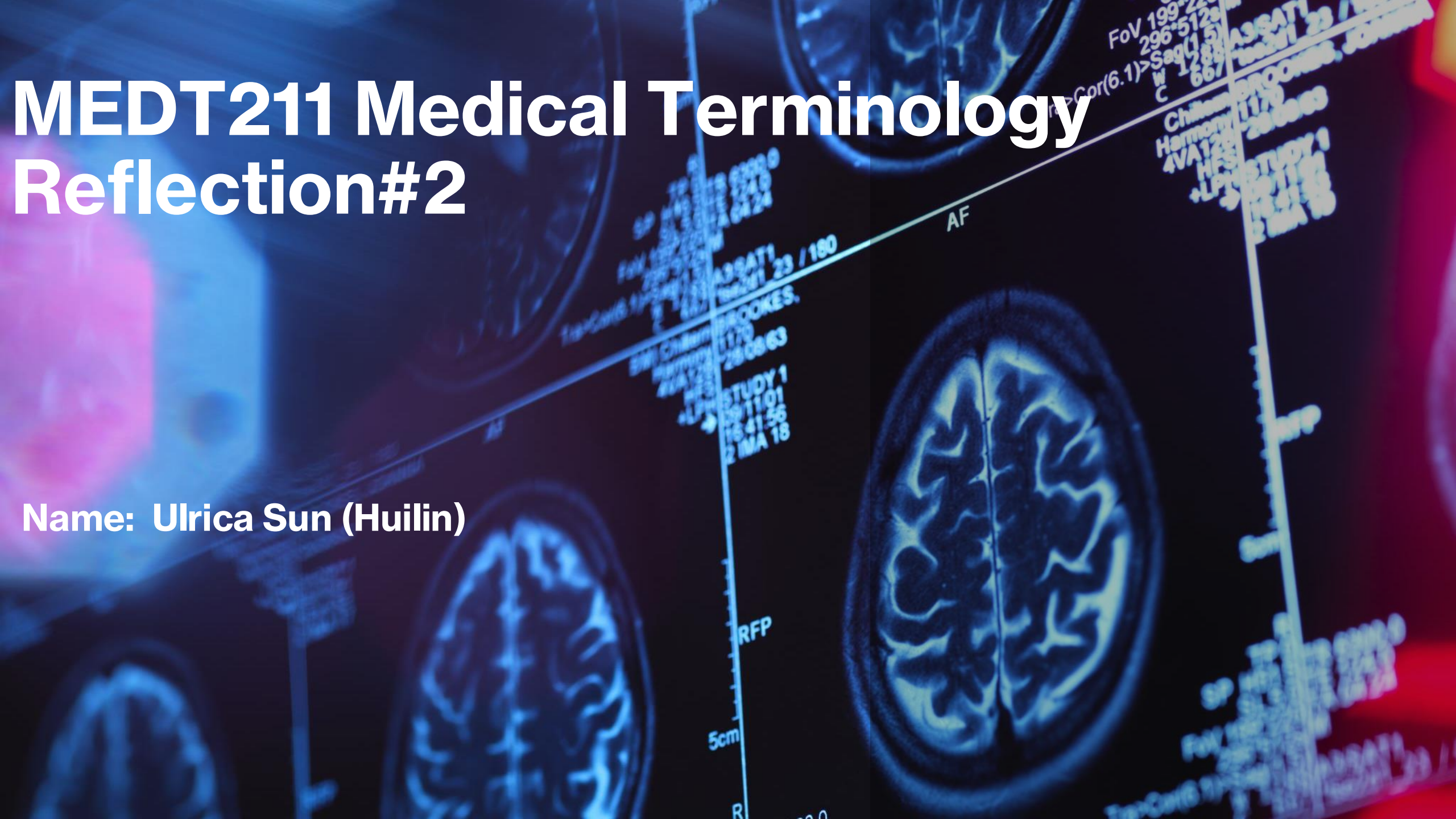
MEDT211 Medical Terminology Reflection#2



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1. Describe a scenario (real or imagined) where a medical imagine professional needs to explain a procedure to a patient using medical terms.

In medical imaging, clear communication is essential, especially when explaining procedures to patients who may already feel nervous or overwhelmed. I remember a scenario from my care aide experience that relates closely to this. A patient was scheduled for a CT scan of the abdomen because of ongoing abdominal pain. The radiology technologist explained to the patient that they would be undergoing a “contrast-enhanced computed tomography scan.” While the term sounded intimidating, the technologist took the time to break it down and explain exactly what would happen. They described that “computed tomography” is a type of X-ray that takes many images from different angles, and “contrast-enhanced” means a special dye would be used to make certain organs and blood vessels easier to see. By translating the medical terms into simple language, the technologist helped the patient feel more at ease and understand why the procedure was necessary.

2. Choose any medical term and explain it so that a patient without medical background can understand.

One medical term that I think needs this kind of explanation is “pneumothorax.” It’s a term that could cause alarm if a patient hears it without context. “Pneumo-” means air, and “thorax” means chest. Together, it describes a condition where air gets into the space between the lung and the chest wall, preventing the lung from fully expanding. Instead of giving a long technical explanation, I would say something like, “A pneumothorax means air has gotten into the space around your lung, making it harder for your lung to expand when you breathe. This can cause chest pain or shortness of breath. We can see it clearly on an X-ray, and the doctor will decide the best way to help your lung heal.”

Being able to move between medical terms and plain language is a skill I want to keep developing as a future medical imaging technologist. With colleagues and in documentation, I’ll need to use precise terminology so there’s no misunderstanding. But when I’m talking to patients, I want to make sure they understand their procedure and feel reassured. Explaining things clearly not only builds trust, but also helps patients be more engaged in their own care. In the end, it’s not just about taking a good image – it’s about making sure the patient feels supported and understood from start to finish.

Thank you!