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### After the Visits

There is no getting used to the sound  
of the grinding gate the guard opens.  
It closes, locks after I'm out to stand  
in the December rain, to smell  
the greenness of rain, watch how freely  
it falls on the road, cars, fir trees  
and empty crow nest in the maple's crotch.  
I inhale and drive with the window down  
to forget disinfectants, body sweat, farts, whiff  
of something scorched in the kitchen.  
I drink a bottle of water – my throat  
catches. At home I shower and drink gin  
to get rid of the metal and old mold smells.