

History of Health Care/Medicine

Early Beginnings

- Methods of giving care: herbs, plants, “organic” foods
- Exorcism: Tribal doctors and witch doctors would try to drive out the evil spirits that made people sick

Early Beginning Medicines

- Medicines of early times still used today
 - Digitalis (foxglove plant) used to slow & strengthen heart
 - Quinine (bark of cinchona tree) used for fever, muscle spasms, malaria
 - Belladonna (nightshade plant) used to relieve smooth muscle spasms of GI tract
 - Morphine (opium poppy) used to relieve severe pain; is addicting

Medicine in Ancient Times

- Early civilizations contributions to medicine
 - Egyptians kept accurate health records, used medicines, developed the art of splinting fractures, superstitious and called on gods of healing, trained physicians such as Greek Galen.
 - Chinese monitored the pulse to determine condition of the body; believed in treating the whole body; used acupuncture.

Ancient Times (cont)

- Greeks studied cause of diseases and found that lack of sanitation caused disease. Hippocrates 400 B.C “Father of medicine” developed Hippocratic Oath taken by doctors today
- Romans organized medical care and started hospitals especially for the military. They sent equipment and doctors to treat wounded soldiers. Doctors kept the sick in their home. They wore a death mask.

Dark and Middle Ages

400 A D to 1400 A D

- Custodial care given in convents and monasteries by Christians
- Islamic hospitals gave care
- Not much interest in what caused disease
- Terrible epidemics such as Black Death or bubonic plague killed 60 million people
- Other epidemics: smallpox, diphtheria, tuberculosis, syphilis

Renaissance (1350-1650 A D)

- Printing press invented
- Books now published so universities and medical schools could do more research
- Acceptance of dissection of the human body
- Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci used dissection to draw more realistic pictures of the human body

16th-17th Centuries Scientists

- William Harvey- heart is a pump which pumps blood through out the body
- Gabrielle Fallopius- identifies and names fallopian tubes and vagina and tympanic membrane
- Bartolomeo Eustachio identified and named the tube leading from ear to the throat

16th-17th (cont)

- Anton van Leeuwenhoek invented the microscope
- Apothecaries (early pharmacists) made, prescribed, and sold medications during this period

18th Century Scientists

- Rene Laennec invented the first stethoscope (was wooden)
- Joseph Priestly discovered the element oxygen
- Benjamin Franklin invented bifocal glasses
- Edward Jenner discovered a smallpox vaccine
- Gabrielle Fahrenheit created first mercury thermometer

19th Century

- Ignaz Semmelweiss found cause of puerperal (childbirth) fever and importance of hand washing (1840s)
- Louis Pasteur discovered heating milk destroys bacteria; rabies vaccine (1885)
- Joseph Lister started using antiseptics in surgery (1865)

19th Century cont

- Robert Koch is “father of microbiology” developed culture plate to isolate bacteria causing TB
- Wilhelm Roentgen discovered x-rays (1895)
- Paul Ehrlich discovered a treatment for syphilis on his 606th experiment

20th Century

- Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin (1928)
- Jonas Salk developed a “dead polio” vaccine in 1952
- Albert Sabin developed an oral “live-virus polio” vaccine in 1950s
- Walter Reed found that mosquitoes carried yellow fever in 1900

Women in Medicine

- Florence Nightingale made nursing a respectable profession and started first nursing schools in 1860
- Clara Barton found the American Red Cross in 1881
- Lillian Wald started the public health nursing and visited homes to give care in New York City in 1893

Women in Medicine (cont)

- Elizabeth Blackwell was first female physician in United States in 1849
- Dorothea Dix founded the International Red Cross in 1863
- Marie Curie isolated radium in 1910