

The History of Health Care

Ancient Times

- Prevention of injury from predators
- Illness/disease caused by supernatural spirits

Ancient Times

- Herbs and plants were used as medicine examples:
 - Digitalis from foxglove plants
 - Then, leaves were chewed to strengthen & slow heart
 - Now, administered by pills, IV, or injections

Ancient Times

- Herbs and plants were used as medicine
examples:
 - Quinine from bark of cinchona tree
 - Controls fever and muscle spasms
 - Used to treat malaria

Ancient Times

- Herbs and plants were used as medicine examples:
 - Belladonna and atropine from poisonous nightshade plant
 - relieves muscle spasms especially GI
 - Morphine from opium poppy
 - relieves severe pain

Egyptians

- Earliest to keep accurate health records
- Superstitious
- Called upon gods
- Identified certain diseases
- Pharaohs kept many specialists



Egyptians

- Priests were the doctors
 - Temples were places of worship, medical schools, and hospitals
 - Only the priests could read the medical knowledge from the god Thoth

Egyptians

- Magicians were also healers
- Believed demons caused disease
- Prescriptions were written on papyrus

Egyptians

- Embalming
 - Done by special priests (NOT the doctor priests)
 - Advanced the knowledge of anatomy
 - Strong antiseptics used to prevent decay
 - Gauze similar to today's surgical gauze

Egyptians

- Research on mummies has revealed the existence of diseases
 - Arthritis
 - Kidney stones
 - Arteriosclerosis

Egyptians

- Some medical practices still used today
 - Enemas
 - Circumcision (4000 BC) preceded marriage
 - Closing wounds
 - Setting fractures

Egyptians

- Eye of Horus
 - 5000 years ago
 - Magic eye
 - amulet to guard against disease, suffering, and evil
 - History: Horus lost vision in attack by Seth; mother (Isis) called on Thoth for help; eye restored
 - Evolved into modern day R_x sign

Jewish Medicine

- Avoided medical practice
- Concentrated on health rules concerning food, cleanliness, and quarantine
- Moses: pre-Hippocratic medical practice
 - banned quackery (God was the only physician)
 - enforced Day of Rest

Greek Medicine

- First to study causes of diseases
- Research helped eliminate superstitions
- Sanitary practices were associated with the spread of disease

Greek Medicine

- Hippocrates
 - no dissection, only observations
 - took careful notes of signs/symptoms of diseases
 - disease was not caused by supernatural forces
- Father of Medicine
 - wrote standards of ethics which is the basis for today's medical ethics

Greek Medicine



- Aesculapius
 - staff and serpent symbol of medicine
 - temples built in his honor because the first true clinics and hospitals

Roman Medicine

- Learned from the Greeks and developed a sanitation system
 - Aqueducts and sewers
 - Public baths
- Beginning of public health

Roman Medicine

- First to organize medical care
- Army medicine
- Room in doctors' house became first hospital
- Public hygiene
 - flood control
 - solid construction of homes

Dark Ages (400-800 A.D.) and Middle Ages (800-1400 A.D.)

- Medicine practiced only in convents and monasteries
- custodial care
- life and death in God's hands

Dark Ages (400-800 A.D.) and Middle Ages (800-1400 A.D.)

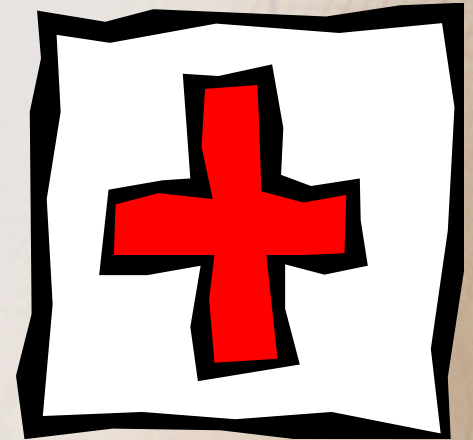
- Terrible epidemics
 - Bubonic plague (Black Death)
 - Small pox
 - Diphtheria
 - Syphilis
 - Measles
 - Typhoid fever
 - Tuberculosis

Dark Ages (400 –800 A.D.) and Middle Ages (800-1400 A. D.)

- Crusaders spread disease
- Cities became common
- Special officers to deal with sanitary problems
- Realization that diseases are contagious
- Quarantine laws passed

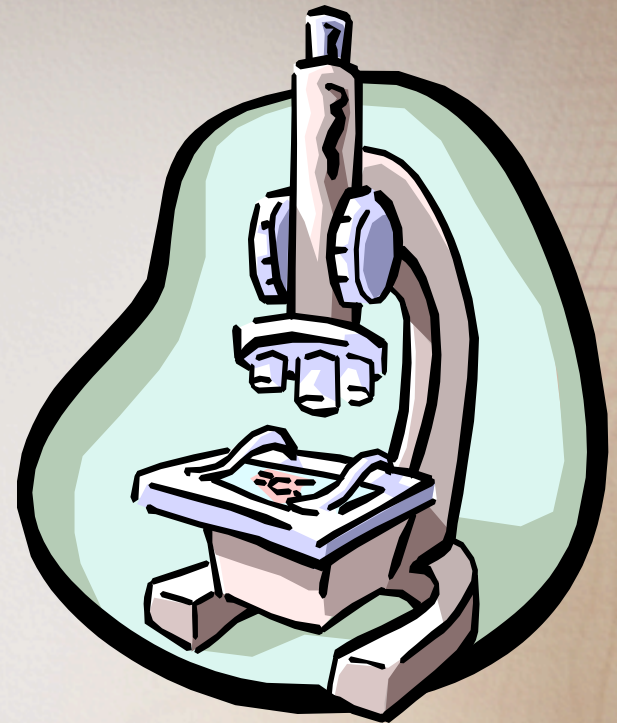
Renaissance Medicine (1350-1650 A.D.)

- Universities and medical schools for research
- Dissection
- Book publishing



16th & 17th Century

- Leonardo da Vinci
 - anatomy of the body
- Anton van Leeuwenhoek (1676)
 - invented microscope
 - observed microorganisms



16th & 17th Century

- William Harvey
 - circulation of blood
- Gabriele Fallopius
 - discovered fallopian tube
- Bartholomew Eustachius
 - discovered the eustachian tube
- Some quackery

18th Century

- Edward Jenner 1796
 - smallpox vaccination
- Joseph Priestly
 - discovered oxygen

18th Century

- Benjamin Franklin
 - invented bifocals
 - found that colds could be passed from person to person
- Laennec
 - invented the stethoscope



19th & 20th Century

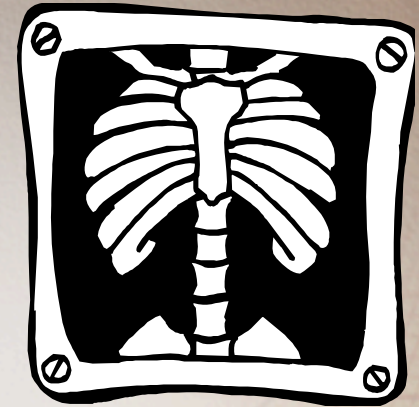
- Inez Semmelweis
 - identified the cause of puerperal fever which led to the importance of hand washing
- Louis Pasteur (1860 –1895)
 - discovered that microorganisms cause disease (germ theory of communicable disease)

19th & 20th Century

- Joseph Lister
 - first doctor to use antiseptic during surgery
- Ernest von Bergman
 - developed asepsis
- Robert Koch
 - Father of Microbiology
 - identified germ causing TB

19th & 20th Century

- Wilhelm Roentgen
 - discovered X-rays
- Paul Ehrlick
 - discovered effect of medicine on disease causing microorganisms
- Anesthesia discovered
 - nitrous oxide, ether, chloroform



19th & 20th Century

- Alexander Fleming
 - discovered penicillin
- Jonas Salk
 - discovered that a killed polio virus would cause immunity to polio
- Alfred Sabin
 - discovered that a live virus provided more effective immunity

1900 to 1945

- Acute infectious diseases (diphtheria, TB, rheumatic fever)
- No antibiotics, DDT for mosquitoes, rest for TB, water sanitation to help stop spread of typhoid fever, diphtheria vaccination
- Hospitals were places to die
- Most doctors were general practitioners

1945 to 1975

- Immunization common
- antibiotic cures
- safer surgery
- Transplants
- increased lifespan
- chronic degenerative diseases

1945 to 1975

- new health hazards
 - obesity
 - neuroses
 - lung cancer
 - hypertension
- disintegrating families
- greatly increasing medical costs