

Medieval Medicine

Years c. 1250—1500

Centuries: 13th, 14th, 15th

Ideas about Causes

God (punishment for sin/testing faith)
Astrology (stars and planets)
4 humours Miasma

Methods of Diagnosis

Urine Charts
Visible symptoms (flushed, vomiting etc)
Zodiac charts

Treatments/Cures

Prayer/Fasting
Bleeding/Bloodletting
Herbal Remedies
Use of opposites
Purifying Air

OR Methods of Prevention

Self punishment (Flagellants)
Lucky charms
Cleaning Streets (during Black Death)
Supernatural Remedies
Diet/Exercise

Who Treated the Sick and Hospitals

Wise women, physicians, apothecaries, barber surgeons, nuns
Hospitals, v .few, cared for you spiritually, rest and food, no real cures though

Surgery Basic! Teeth pulling, bleeding, v occasionally amputation—

V. low success rate (pain, infection blood loss etc)

Key People: No real stand out Medieval Medical people—
Influence of Hippocrates and Galen still v. strong

Key Disease: Black Death
1348/9 **1/3 died**
Bubonic and Pneumonic Plague

Factors: RELIGION!

Renaissance Medicine

Years c. 1500—1700

Centuries: 16th, 17th

Ideas about Causes

MIASMA God Astrology
4 humours

Methods of Diagnosis

Urine Charts
Visible symptoms (flushed, vomiting etc)
Zodiac charts

Treatments/Cures OR

Prayer/Fasting
Bleeding/Bloodletting
Herbal Remedies
(inc new ones from plants brought back from overseas)

Methods of Prevention

Self punishment (Flagellants)
Lucky charms
Cleaning Streets, closing public places, Quarantines esp during plague
More action from king/govt to deal with plague

Who Treated the Sick and Hospitals

Wise women, physicians, apothecaries (now had to have licence), barber surgeons, **QUACKS** Less hospital care after Henry VIII shut monasteries, some charity funded ones, some pest houses, new hospitals that did appear run by physicians, not church and nuns.

Surgery No real changes (although dissection of corpses became legal)

Key People

Andreas Vesalius
William Harvey
Thomas Sydenham

Key Disease

The Great Plague
London 1665

Factors: RELIGION! COMMUNICATION (PRINTING PRESS), Science and Technology, Individual Genius

Medicine in the Industrial Age	Years c. 1700—1900	Centuries: 18th, 19th
Ideas about Causes/Diagnosis: Still Miasma at start, but better microscopes allowed microbes to be seen much more clearly and finally their roles in disease begun to be understood from 1860s		
Treatments/Cures	Methods of Prevention	
Vaccine for Smallpox (1790s) Some other vaccines by 1880s	Increased government action 1850s > Public Health Act 1875 and sewers built (London)	
Who Treated the Sick and Hospitals		
Nursing and hospital standards v. poor at start—burial fees etc. Improved mid 19th century. Surgeons and Doctors trained at university. Nursing properly trained by end (in contrast with start)		
Surgery Anaesthetics, Antiseptics and therefore safer surgery by end of period (but not solved blood loss)		
Key People	Key People	
Edward Jenner (vaccination) James Simpson (anaesthetics) Joseph Lister (antiseptics) Louis Pasteur (germs/bacteria) Robert Koch (germs/bacteria)	Florence Nightingale (nursing) John Snow (cholera)	
	Key Disease: Cholera 1830s—1860s	
Factors: science & technology, individual genius, chance, Govt		

Modern Medicine	Years c. 1900—Present	Centuries: 20th, 21st
Understanding of Causes: Bacteria/germs/microbes plus understanding of genetics and conditions caused by genes (Down's syndrome etc) and research into effects of life style choices (drinking, smoking, diet etc) Diagnosis , blood tests, monitors, X rays, MRI, ultrasound and CT scans, endoscopes, etc		
Treatments/Cures	Methods of Prevention	
Chemical drugs—magic bullets etc Antibiotics (penicillin) Radiotherapy, Chemotherapy	Compulsory vaccinations Life style campaigns (5 a day ..) Govt laws (Smoking Ban)	
Who Treated the Sick and Hospitals		
1948—NHS set up—treatment for all paid for by national taxation, not individual patients. Free at the point of need. Government increasingly involved in health.		
Surgery: Blood transfusions, keyhole and microsurgery, organ transplants, Aseptic surgery, plastic surgery		
Key People	Key People	
Alexander Fleming (penicillin) Howard Florey & Ernst Chain (penicillin)	Aneurin Bevan (NHS)	
	Key Disease: Lung Cancer	
Factors: Government, War, Science and Technology, Individual Genius		