

## Medieval Surgery

- This was quick and brutal.
- Mainly involved lopping bits off or cutting its out
- There was little anaesthetic used.
- Sometimes alcohol was used but this thinned the blood and made the patient bleed more.
- Did use Hemlock to knock people out BUT this could cause death if people were overdosed.
- Surgery was mainly performed by barber surgeons

## Medieval Treatments and Surgery

### Background

When the Romans left Britain in 450ad they took all of the knowledge that they had with them. This led to medicine going backwards as WARS prevented people from discovering new ideas. The CHURCH played a vital role in bringing back new ideas from the Islamic Empire, which had kept much more of the Roman ideas.

## Summary

- Surgery was dangerous and painful
- There were five main types of healers
- The Islamic Empire increased its knowledge
- The Church played a vital role in Western medicine.
- Dissection was not allowed.

## Healers

Healer	What they did and who they worked for
Physician/Doctor	University trained Used Galen's and Hippocrates' ideas Used mainly herbs Were expensive so mainly treated the rich
Barber Surgeon	Trained with an apprenticeship Cut hair and amputate infected limbs and warts. Cheap so used by all
Wise Woman/Midwives	No formal training, learnt from mothers etc. Cured using herbs etc. Very cheap so everybody used them
Quack Doctor	No training Created their own cures and sold these at fairs Very cheap but unlikely to work.
Monks	Used cures they learnt from books Mainly cured used herbs and prayer. Treated all as part of their Christian duty.

### The Christian Church

- Treated people with non-infectious diseases at HOSPITALS as part of their Christian duties.
- They used a mix of herbs and prayer to cure patients
- They did not understand about the need for hygiene so people shared beds.
- Only 10% of hospitals treated the sick. The rest looked after the poor and needy.
- They did NOT treat, pregnant women, the insane, wounds or infectious diseases.
- Supported the work of Galen above all others
- Banned dissection so knowledge of the anatomy was limited.

**Vs**

### The Islamic Empire

- Believed in treating illness as part of their religious duty.
- Cairo hospital could treat 8000 people.
- Based their ideas on Galen but moved forward.
- Avicenna and Ibn-Sina re-wrote old texts and added their new ideas
- Al-Bucassis invented the curved surgical needle and plaster casts (both of which we use today)
- Banned dissection so the knowledge of anatomy was limited.
- Used opium to knock out patients for surgery.
- Doctors and Surgeons were highly educated