

Medieval Knowledge & Beliefs (MIDDLE AGES c.1,000 AD)

GOD - the dominance of the **Catholic Church** meant that God and **PRAYER** were the first things that people in the **MIDDLE AGES** thought of when dealing with illnesses. The Church's creation of the first **UNIVERSITIES** and **HOSPITALS** in their monasteries controlled ideas to focus on God & the 4 **HUMOURS**. No other teaching/ ideas allowed.

4 HUMOURS - Ancient Greek ideas of **Hippocrates**. (Rediscovered after the Crusades 1096 from Muslim doctors). Illness caused by imbalance of 4 **HUMOURS**.

MIASMA Theory - Belief that bad smells caused/ spread illness.

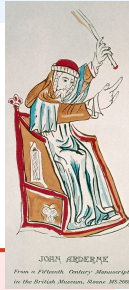
SUPERSTITION & WITCHCRAFT - Many superstitious cures and beliefs continued throughout the Middle Ages. Doctors even used stars to chart health issues- Astrology.

SCIENTIFIC METHOD - some early pioneers of scientific method from **Bishop Grosseteste & John of Arderne** (observe and record). But any **disagreements with the Church ended up in execution** e.g. Roger Bacon (13th century)



A medieval picture showing the importance of religion in medieval medicine

John of Arderne, the only named Barber Surgeon from the Middle Ages



A symbol of the 4 Humours

MEDIEVAL MEDICINE

Health in the Middle Ages (c.1,000 - 1450 AD)



Flagellants



Early hospital in a monastery

Medieval Public Health (MIDDLE AGES c.1,000 AD)

Very little Public Health during Middle Ages. Most towns had NOT continued to build on **ANCIENT Public Health** of Romans (public baths, sewers, aqueducts, fresh water). Good **ROMAN Public Health** ignored. Dirty towns meant more chances for disease to start & spread.

Rare exceptions of Public Health Actions.

The '**Great Conduit**' (1237); City of London council bought and built a pipeline of fresh water from River Tyburn.

After **BLACK DEATH** (1347-49), towns in England began;

1. Expelling '**toxic industries**' (butchers, fishmongers, tanneries/ leather makers) outside city walls.
2. City '**grave sites**' built outside city.
3. Rules to **clean street outside** your doorstep or **FINES**.

The Church created the first **PUBLIC HOSPITALS in monasteries** for public treatment in clean environments. E.g. St. Thomas's, St. Barts. (12th century). Copied idea from **CRUSADES WARS** 11th Century (Arab hospitals)

Medieval Surgery (MIDDLE AGES c.1,000 AD)

MEDIEVAL BARBER & BUTCHER SURGEONS - Untrained, uneducated barbers and butchers would often become surgeons in times of war. War gave them lots of practice and opportunities to train their **APPRENTICES**, as well as lots of business.

Outside of war, they performed **DENTISTRY**; **BLOOD-LETTING** and cut hair.

Major surgery = big chance of dying from the **BIG 3 PROBLEMS (PAIN, BLOOD LOSS, INFECTION)**

Some innovations and improvements = **arrow cups** (adapting to new weapons) and **wine soaked bandages** = improved later infections.

John of Arderne = only named Medieval Barber Surgeon. Known to have taught at Oxford University and his **book 'Practica'** (1376). Also developed an early **SOOTHING OINTMENT** to reduce **PAIN** and **INFECTION** (made of hemlock and opium).

The Church **BANNED human dissections** and only allowed the study of **ANCIENT ROMAN Galen's work** on surgery (dissections on pigs). Restricted study of **ANATOMY**.

KEYWORDS:

Middle Ages

Prayer

4 Humours

Miasma

Superstition

Witchcraft

Scientific Method

Ancient Societies

Black Death

Plague

Public Hospitals

Crusades

Barber Surgeon

Apprentices

Blood-letting

Pain, Blood Loss &

Infection

Flagellants

Medieval Cures & Treatments (MIDDLE AGES c.1,000 AD)

GOD - PRAYERS were the first and most common treatment used in Medieval Times. People's reliance on the Church held back medical progress. **FLAGELLANTS** would whip themselves as an apology to God to spare them from the Plague.

Monastic **HOSPITALS** (St Thomas's) compiled the best **herbal cures** for the time from experience.

4 HUMOURS - Treatments for the 4 **HUMOURS** were based on balancing out the humours. E.g. **Bloodletting/ leeches** for fevers. Hot drinks for colds (phlegm).

MIASMA Theory - **bathing in urine** to smell worse than the disease.

SUPERSTITION & WITCHCRAFT - Many weird and wonderful cures like **roasted cat oil, rubbing naked butts**.

No effective cures. Middle Ages = no knowledge of diseases.

