
INNOVATION OR REPETITION

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From inability to leave well alone;

From too much zeal for what is new and contempt for what is old;

From putting knowledge before wisdom;

Science before art, cleverness before common sense;

From treating patient as cases; and from making the cure of a disease more grievous than its endurance.

God Lord, deliver us

Sir Robert Hutchison (1871-1960)

We face advances and development in medicine every day. Sterile surgery and anaesthesia made progress possible in surgical practice, some of the problems which were unsolved previously are easily controlled now all because of the recent advances and development. Surgical practice had evolved for many years to reach where it stands today. The great pioneers of medicine solved a lot of our problems and paved the road for us. Their outstanding contribution to the modern practice is something invaluable.

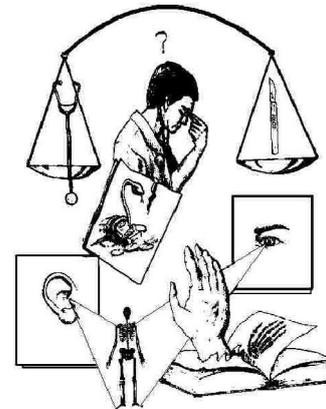
No doubt a surgeon is the one who constantly innovates and strives to do it in the right way, it is obvious that no good person always does the right things we call these deviations "mistakes".

Rigorous honesty is required to use an ethical system for the innovation and to assess the innovation in an honest and forthright manner.

These advancements raise so many questions, were these advancements always done within the framework of ethical behaviour? or were patients placed at inappropriate risk just for the change? How does a surgeon choose to do a new procedure? What inner questions must be asked before proceeding? How much training is necessary and from whom? How do we know when a new innovation is valid?

A review of historical process gives answers as to how we should behave in the future.

If we look back to the ancient days of medical practice where very primitive approaches were used to diagnose or to treat the illness and compare that with the recent practice where MRI, CAT, immune therapy or gene therapy is becoming a documented fact, we can easily appreciate how great were our medical fathers and grand fathers, and how great was their work. We are really lucky to practice and enjoy medicine after its major problems were solved. But we have to remember always that such advances were not possible without innovation and certainly impossible if mere blind repetition was



practiced. The standard practice is the core or the nucleus for development and ramification.

Advances and development should be tailored according to the demand and the appearance of new medical problems, the solid scientific basis behind it is always mandatory.

Changes are not created for the sake of change or just inventing or establishing new ideas as someone might think. Development in medical practice is necessary to make the practice and life for the physician and the patient, easy, safe, and useful too. What is useful and good today or yesterday will probably not remain so in the coming days.

Also we have to remember that not every advance is necessarily better than the old practice, we have to wait for the test of time before we rush for practicing it.

Blind application of the recent advances may lead to so many complications, we have to understand the reason or reasons behind the changes or modifications. The only way to understand innovation is to make thorough analysis, for how much it was supported by solid scientific basis and if it was totally safe, fruitful and meaningful.

Unsound supposition and personal view may be destructive and harmful if not supported by a documented scientific fact.

We need to sit aside at the end of the week to re-digest and ruminate our daily practice so that we can answer the so many questions; can we modify it to a better state? Can we offer golden lessons for our daughters and sons in the coming days? Can we avoid our own complications? Can we make our career a real honey and milk? Can we establish a new approach or idea? Can we prove against an already established fact?

Complications are the stimulus for innovation, there is always a definite reason or reasons behind the occurrence of the stormy and non-stormy complications.

If the troubles remain the same and the complications is coming again, this certainly indicates no development but a blind repeated practice. Solving problems and complications per se can be considered as innovation.

We have to think seriously how to make what is difficult and tiresome for us, easy and simple for the followers. If we do not practice innovation, we are not faithful in the way the previous pioneers in medicine were.

Sadly so many colleagues had a long but a monotonous practice for ages, they used to do the standard every day as they were taught in the ancient days, this is a real blind repetition which is destructive and harmful to our dear career.

Other sort of colleagues, made some good alternation for themselves only without publishing it which does indicate some sort of selfishness. Both of them forget to remember that every one of us will remain alive by his scientific contribution to the career and not by his money which was left behind him after his departure to the final destination.

If we remember how much suffering was extracted by the recent advances in medical practice, and how medicine became safe and effective through innovation we will certainly stop the blind repetition and work hand in hand with research and development.

Our previous colleagues and their tireless efforts in innovation really deserve respect and gratitude and we have to stand for their great efforts every day and to do the same too.

Hopefully our work too, will keep us alive in the brains of our future colleagues in the way we do remember the pioneers of the ancient days.

To sum up, innovation is required from all of us, we have to promote research and development which stand on documented scientific facts arising from our own private practice. Nothing is worse than a blind repetition and a dogmatic brain that does not accept promotion, development and self discussion.