

## Renaissance 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

## 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.
Apothecary	Like a pharmacist, would make up treatments for you to use. Relatively inexpensive so used by all but the poor.

## Renaissance Treatments and Surgery

### Background

By the end of the Medieval Period people were becoming less religious and starting to look for new explanations. This was partly due to the fact that the Reformation had taken down some of the power of the Catholic Church. This led to more freedom to stud anatomy and challenge Galen's 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.

## Hospitals

New hospitals were set up after the Church Hospitals were closed by the Reformation. They were funded by charitable donations and mainly treated the poor. You could still not enter if you had contagious disease. Conditions were generally unhygienic Things began to improve after the APOTHECRIES ACT in 1815

## Beliefs about Causes and Cures

Despite an increase in study and knowledge that this bought in terms of treatment there was very little change.

The four humours was still widely used as were Barber Surgeons. This lack of change was easily seen in the treatment of Scrofula. This was supposedly the "King's Disease". If the king laid his hands on someone with Scrofula he would be cured.

The other way of proving that medicine had not changed was the treatment Charles II received as he was dying. He was bled many times and fed the crushed skull of a human being to try and save his life. It didn't work.