

*Nesterenko M. A., Lavshuk V. V.*  
**THE MOST UNUSUAL WAYS OF TREATMENT IN THE HUMAN HISTORY**  
*Scientific supervisor sen. teacher Prostotina O. V.*  
*The department of foreign languages*  
*Belarusian State Medical University, Minsk.*

First people appeared on the Earth about two hundred thousand years ago. Human race existing, a great variety of different illnesses were accompanying it. Now people know more than ten thousand diseases. Trying to overcome them, doctors all over the world are constantly working on creating the most effective methods of treatment and drugs. But not always medical workers were able to follow Hippocrates's principle «*primum non nocere*» (“do not harm”).

Healers of the past used unusual for us methods of curing, but, as a rule, they didn't think about the side effects. Very often animal origin remedies were used in different cases. For example, cat's fat for curing angina, paste made of dead mouse for toothache, snail's slime for healing burns and a sore throat, powder from dead owls for curing gout, crocodile's excrement as a method of contraception.

It should also be mentioned that pharmacists of the past prepared some really dangerous drugs for patients: heroin as cough and insomnia medicine, arsenic to treat malaria and syphilis, ecstasy against depression and morphine analgetic syrup for children. Moreover there were other extraordinary methods of treatment, which, according to the doctors of the past, could help to overcome various diseases: simple needles for cataract curing, transplantation of goat's testicles for impotence, dissection of tongue for stuttering, trepanation to fight against mental disorders and well-known bloodletting almost for all the illnesses.

This list can be continued for a fairly long period of time. Therefore we can only be amazed by doctors' ingenuity and imagination. But everything is moving forward including medicine. New drugs and methods of treatment, which are really effective in controlling different diseases and bring less side effects than their analogues from the Past, are being developed.