

Painting

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Introduction

Observational skills are very important for future doctors. Watching a work of art doctors can help identify the artist's illness, or chart its progression by considering the details, like color

choice, perspective and subject matter. On the other hand, doctors can study distinctive or abnormal subjects shown in works of art and make a medical diagnosis.

Aim

Our study is aimed to show how observation of works of art can become a source of information for a doctor in making a diagnosis.

Materials and methods

We have analyzed the results of some similar projects in the leading medical universities. We also studied the articles on the issue in medical literature.

Results

The study carried out at Harvard University showed that 38% of students motivated to study paintings from a medical prospective can improve their observational skills. Whatever form it takes, doctors and art historians alike say that giving a medical spin to art can provide insight into the development of an artist's work or the prevalence of certain diseases in history. The method, which helps to evaluate the health of the person in the picture, is called ikonodiagnosics. This method makes it possible for students to understand and practise basics of physical examination, expand students' abilities to observe, describe and analyze. It also contributes to developing hypotheses through teamwork, and increases students' confidence in visual and descriptive abilities. It helps people to notice some details that weren't visible previously. We analyzed some paintings by Monet, Degas, Michelangelo and other famous painters, and were able to see the progression of their diseases. We could see changes in the course of some diseases throughout centuries. We tried to reveal the real cause of death of the people represented in some pictures.

Conclusion

Pictures can be used as a diagnostic method because the visual part of the clinical resolution of the diagnosis is one of the main components for detection of a disease. The method of analyzing art from a medical point of view can not only increase curiosity, but also strengthen their motivation and interest.