

Noun categories in diseases denominations

Kandrytsa Michail Igorevich

The Belarusian State Medical University, Minsk

Tutor– Kostiouchkina Oksana Michailovna, The Belarusian State Medical University, Minsk

Introduction

There are about twenty thousand diseases, and they are classified in many ways: according to their etiology, course, or the pathology level. This study is an attempt to classify diseases according to some linguistic categories in their denominations.

Aim of the study

To classify diseases names according to proper or common nouns used in their denominations.

Materials and methods

Reference and encyclopedic literature, in particular English-Russian Medical Dictionary [1] that covers about 70000 words as well as Internet websites were analyzed.

Results

Initially, 400 entries were selected in order to divide them into different groups according to general criteria. The most numerous group was the group, which included diseases, syndromes or symptoms named after the doctors who had discovered them, or who had developed the treatment (eponyms). After sorting out this group, 50 words remained. They were divided into 3 groups: names of literary characters and famous personalities not engaged in medicine (Alice in Wonderland syndrome, van Gogh syndrome, St. Erasmus' disease); denominations including toponyms (Ebola virus disease, Jerusalem syndrome) and the "mixed" group. This group is not numerous and includes zoonyms (cat eye syndrome, puppy pregnancy syndrome, green-monkey), occupation names (brass-founders' disease) and denominations associated with unusual phenomena or behaviors: alien hand syndrome, bystander effect, kinky hair disease, walking corpse syndrome, geographic tongue, Chinese restaurant syndrome, morning glory syndrome and some other denominations.

Conclusions

Eponyms predominate in the diseases and syndromes denominations. However, some other groups can be singled out among the diseases names including proper or common nouns. These denominations can be of interest to the medical students from the standpoint of their etymology or translation into other languages.