

Editorial

Science and art are usually considered as two mutually exclusive hemispheres. As the science of medicine continues to expand rapidly, the art of medicine seems to decline in the same rate. Endoscopes and image guided navigation systems may have helped us to venture into the deepest and remote corners of skull base, but are we forgetting the art of touching the soul of the patient? Technology is without doubt utilized for the betterment of human care. However, the time-honored physician-patient relationship is largely being forgotten. The measure has to be balanced on both sides. A technologically skilful surgeon has master the art of patient care and *vice versa*.



The aim of developing new diagnostic and therapeutic gadgets are definitely for the welfare of the patient. This itself is a part of patient care. But this should not become a barrier between the patient and the doctor. A rhinologist can easily look into the sinus of a patient with an endoscope, but requires immense patience and compassion to touch the heart of his patient. This similar to the technical skills have to be nurtured by the same in the long run. Any new device or technology can be mastered by attending seminars or workshops, but the art of patient care has to be learned on the long run. There are no short cuts to this time tested virtue. In today's atmosphere of chaos and confusion, a physician is excessively buried in academic and legal paper works that he forgets the basic aim of this profession. Physicians find it difficult to spent time to listen to the worries of his patient, even though he might have successfully treated the patient from morbid disease. This makes them seem hurried and irritable and makes the patient feel that the doctor is callous, uncaring or even arrogant. This is precisely the reason for the ever increasing displeasure among the patients. This is never to understate the importance of scientific vigour and technological advancements as they are indispensable tools of patient care. But these tools should not cloud the mind of the treating physician from touching the patient.

The whole concept has been summarised in the prayer of Maimonides, which should be on lips of all doctors. 'oh God, in the sufferer let me see only the human being... Inspire me with love for my art and for Thy creatures'.

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