

The Best of Medicine

26 June 2008

Audience feedback

Q: So what is your opinion on the best of medicine?

Audience members: My opinion is that the evidence-based medicine is probably the most important aspect of medicine, because without evidence-based medicine then you can't really be sure what you're doing or go forward with anything, otherwise you're just guessing.

I'll for now go for vaccinations, because it's prevention and that's what we all want to achieve: prevent us from getting ill.

The medicine that brings the greatest benefit to the greatest number as opposed to some super drug which cures some illness that very few people have got, but is of course helpful to them.

I don't know much about the other ones, so I'm here to learn about those, so for now I'll go for vaccination, yeah.

Stem cell research, yes, wonderful.

Q: Why do you think that?

Audience members: Well it's going to go places isn't it? Eventually it's going to cure a lot of things.

If you can bring benefit to lots of people, such as for instance, glaucoma operations in various countries, say line drips, anything that will keep more people alive and happier and more healthy, I think, and it doesn't have to be expensive.

I think a very interesting debate and four important perspectives were put forward and I believe vaccines and family planning, homeopathy and evidence-based medicine, all of them are important.

I still think homeopathy is the best choice in medicine and the best of ideas in medicine and I think the rest undermine the health of people, rather than really helping.

I went for vaccination because it was clearly the strongest of the arguments. I think the arguments against evidence-based medicine were exactly right, it is all basically all modern medicine and I thought not enough evidence for homeopathy at all and yeah, family planning's a close second.

I was just saying, because I voted for vaccination and I just made the point that evidence, I don't think that it should have been on the agenda because it's so, it covers everything.

It's like so broad compared to the rest of them, it wasn't fair to add it onto the same level.

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I found the debate really, really interesting, particularly the information about the actual impact of contraception and vaccination, the number of people it had affected, but I think that it was kind of a biased debate from the very beginning in the fact that I don't think that there can be anything other than evidenced-based medicine that can have caused any of these, because you wouldn't be able to have those two without the other.

In terms of like, well the evidence is great for all medicine, but vaccination to be more specific is great as the best in medicine I feel. Although you voted for –

I voted for evidence because that is basically medicine, so if I was to vote for something more specific, I probably would have voted for vaccination.

It was interesting to see actually, there was a very fair degree of support for all the four particular subjects that were chosen. My own personal interest is in homeopathy, which I think actually came second out of the four that were chosen. In other words it came immediately after the one that was chosen.

I thought it was a very interesting debate and I thought it was very interesting to find out how many people view things like homeopathy, not as a thing of evidence, but as a political idea and to vote for things purely on a personal basis.

Q: What did you vote for?

Audience member: I voted for contraception.

Q: What pointed you to vote for contraception?

Audience member: On a personal level, no, I think that contraception helped liberate modern society in the most profound way and is still doing so and it can do so even more for the rest of the world.

[End of transcript]