1. GONORRHEA

Gonorrhea is the only identifiable infection whose continuous presence has been documented since the dawn of recorded history. It is also the most common of all the venereal diseases.

1.1 EARLY HISTORY

The Bible provides the following and other early references:

Genesis 12:17 & 20:17, 18 tell of Sarah who gave the disease to her husband Abraham and to others.

The Second Decree Supplementing the Law Regarding the Change of Family Names of 17 Aug 1938 (Reichsgesetzblatt I, p.1044) required the addition of SARA or ISRAEL as a middle name in the return address for Jewish writers.

Berlin (19 May 1941) to Los Angeles, Cal. Military & Civilian Censorship in Germany.
1.1 EARLY HISTORY

Early Assyrian cuneiform tablets make mention of the thick and cloudy urine characteristic of gonorrhea.

Hippocrates (460-337 BC) was familiar with and wrote of strictures of the urethra from gonorrhea.


The early Arab physicians, Maimonides, Rhazes, Avicenna and others, were familiar with and wrote of urethral strictures from gonorrhea and the use of catheters for relief.
1.1 EARLY HISTORY

Chinese physicians such as Li Shih Chen (1518-1593) could differentiate between syphilis and gonorrhea...

...whereas the influential 15th century European physician Paracelsus taught that gonorrhea was symptomatic of syphilis.

The New World also was infected.

Gabriel Soares de Sousa in his 1587 book DESCRIPTION OF BRASIL recorded that "The indians have a flow or run that gives them sorrow...", i.e., gonorrhea.

Tapuya Indian - 1641 and now -->
1.2 TREATMENTS

The high incidence of gonorrhea throughout the world led to a wide variety of questionable treatments and suspicious 'cures'.

American Indians used a tea made from bark of some maple trees.

The bearberry / uva-ursi was a popular European folk cure, and strawberry root tea was used in the Old and New Worlds.
Herbert R. Metat had a variety of wonder cures available to a gullible and desperate public in 1858. Of particular interest is his Practical Receipt for Curing Gonorrhoea or Clapp.

**METAT'S**

**SPERMATIC PILLS.**

For the cure of Spermatorrhoea or Nocturnal Emissions.

---

Practical Receipt for Making Cologne.

- Indellible Ink.
- Black Ink.
- Hair Invigorator.
- Metat's Cough Syrup.

**N. B.—**All communications strictly confidential by both parties. Address

**HERBERT R. METAT,**

**Box 690,**

**SAVANNAH, GEORGIA.**
1.2 TREATMENTS

Desperate cures for desperate people.
No postal issues address quack cures for gonorrhea in the manner of American private die proprietary revenue stamps.

H.T. and A.L. Helmold made their buchu into a popular 'cure.'

Marketed by Demas Barnes and Co., Dr. Marchisi's Uterine Catholicon (cure all) was one of the few treatments especially for women.

... unless one preferred
Dr. Cheeseman's Female Regulating Pills

Tarrant & Co.'s Compound Extract of Cubebs and Copaiba enjoyed popularity as a treatment.
Although gonorrhea is not mentioned in the advertisements on these covers, the American public of the era was well-aware of their intended uses.

... like Dr. Marchisi's Uterine Catholicon for the lady in distress in the mid-1850s.

... and Kane's Buchu, one of many competing brands, was popular with both sexes in the early 1890s.
1.2 TREATMENTS

Herbal remedies were popular worldwide and were inexpensive.

Strong diuretics like corn silk tea had their proponents ...

Fairfield, Iowa 12 June 1928 2 cent Letter Rate + 15 cent Registry Fee

Medicines and home brews containing sassafras were popular treatments in N. America and Australia.

Sassafras Fork, N.C. ca. 1864 manuscript cancel on turned cover.

HOOD’S Sarsaparilla was a well-advertised treatment in the Americas.

A popular treatment in Ayurvedic medicine is a tea made from the leaves of *Bambusa arundinacea*.

Obverse  Backprint

Dhamvantari
Goddess of Medicine
1.2 TREATMENTS

Ladies! A preventative and a cure just for you. ...and note the other diseases it cures.

MADAM LE MAY’S FRENCH FORMULA
Antiseptic Vaginal Suppositories

FOR THE RELIEF AND CURE OF
Leucorrhœa, Gonorrhœa, Prolapse, or Falling of the Womb, Inflammation, Congestion, Anteversion, Retroversion, Dropsey of the Womb, Ulceration, Polypus, Tumors, Profuse and Difficult Menstruation, Ovarian Tumors, Fibroid Tumors, Inflammation and Congestion of the Ovaries, Cancers in their early days, Laceration of Cervix (due to child-birth) and other Female Complaints in general. A remedy of great medicinal value, and has been used in hundreds of the most severe cases, producing instant relief followed by a speedy cure. The secret of our success lies in the application of the Suppository directly to the diseased parts, where the medication can be continued for hours at a time, acting as safe and harmless as a flax-seed poultice, which is a great advantage over any remedies which are applied by injecting with syringes. It can be used at all times. These Suppositories are a protection from Venereal Diseases, and as an antiseptic are far superior and more convenient to use than Bichloride of Mercury Tablets.

IMPORTANT Before using our Suppositories we desire you to read very carefully the directions for using the same, so that you obtain good results at once. If you cannot live up to them you will only be wasting your time and money without getting any returns for your investment.

WE DO NOT CLAIM that one box of our Suppositories will cure all cases, but very often it does not require that many; if the first box gives you relief you should be satisfied and obtain more of them at once, and continue using them according to directions until you are entirely cured.

GENERAL DIRECTIONS Before going to bed remove the wax paper from the Suppository, and insert it into the vagina, using the forefinger to crowd it up as far as you can reach, allow it to remain over night, and in the morning take a liberal Injection of warm water; this treatment should be continued every night until entirely cured, and in obstinate cases should be used both night and morning.

AS A PREVENTATIVE OR PROTECTION FROM VENEREAL DISEASES will have a reliable protection from any Venereal disease, even if you do not use the injection of warm water, as this is not absolutely necessary. The remedy acts as a protection to male as well as female, and their use can be continued for years without any injurious effects whatever; if you doubt this statement show the remedy to your physician and see if he will not say that our remedy is a reliable one, as we do not object to giving our formula to any physician.

The foregoing instructions are general, and we wish to say to anyone using the Suppository who fails to make satisfactory progress please write us, fully describing your case, and we will take pleasure in giving additional instructions in detail by letter, in strict confidence, but be sure to always enclose a two-cent stamp to insure a prompt reply, and send us the name of the Druggist from whom you bought the remedy.

MELTED SUPPOSITORIES Should you at any time get a box of Suppositories that are melted or run together, or old stock that are not in perfect condition, we will replace them free of charge if you will kindly mail the melted ones to us. If they have become soft in warm weather lay them in cold water a few minutes before using them. This will harden them nicely.

$1.00 A BOX—SIX BOXES FOR $5.00

Sent securely sealed, charges prepaid, on receipt of price, which can be sent by mail with perfect safety. You can remit in postage stamps for small amounts. It is not necessary to register letters with money, as we never yet have lost any letters in the mails.

Our remedy is sold by some of the leading druggists, but if they try to palm something else on you under the plea that “It’s just as good,” send your orders direct to us, and we will forward the goods the same day the order is received.

Guaranteed by
GARDEN CITY DRUG CO.,
MISSOULA, MONT.

Under the Food and Drugs Act, June 30, 1906. SERIAL NUMBER 43529.
1.2 TREATMENTS

Gentlemen in the late 1880s would find the Gonorrheal Apron indispensible while undergoing treatment.

Not Responsible for DAMAGE or LOSS that may occur in Transportation. All Goods being Sh...

Automatic Valve Nursing Bottle Fittings.

D. A. B. D.
Gonorrheal Apron.

Combination D. A. B. D.
Gonorrheal Apron.

All Claims for deductions of any kind (except...

Gonorrheal Apron.

D. A. B. D’s are used to keep the clothing and bedding from becoming soiled while afflicted with gonorrhea or gleet, and to support the testicles, thereby relieving the chords, preventing much irritation, and consequent swelling, and assist materially in the cure of the disease.

DIRECTIONS FOR USE.
1st.—Put a small quantity of absorbent cotton in the bottom of the apron A, which will absorb the discharge. The cotton should be changed for clean cotton frequently.
2nd.—Pass the penis through centre hole B, and buckle belt C around the body, and pass the understraps D D under each leg, and tie in loops on belt C.

The front of the apron may be unbuttoned and turned down to...
1.2 TREATMENTS

... and just when you think you have seen everything!
Here is a genuine Walter F. Ware Company No. 117 Gonorrhoeal Apron and Suspensory Bandage.
1.2 TREATMENTS

Sufferers of gonorrhea in Great Britain might try a potion touted in this Mulready advertising envelope - DR. ALLISON’S SOLUTION OF COPAIBA, "...confidently and earnestly recommended."

...WITH PERFECT SAFETY...
...a permanent cure...
in recent or obstinate cases

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Turn-of-the-century gonorrhea sufferers in New Zealand could consult the backs of their postage stamps to find that Beecham’s PILLS were a cure-all for both sexes.
1.2 TREATMENTS

Victorian era Australians could try any of the following remedies to treat gonorrhea...

- A diuretic health tea
- Warner's Safe Cure
- Warner's Safe Pills
- Dr. Smith's Organic Liquids

Few used since promoter forced out of business by Victoria government.
1.2 TREATMENTS

Many women used conventional feminine hygiene products and douches as a prophylaxis and treatment for gonorrhea.

LA LYSINE was popular with colonial French women in North Africa.

German women could use Ornicettes from Chem. Fabrik Albert Mendel A.-G. of Berlin.

Out of fear, desperation, and ignorance, sufferers of ano-rectal gonorrhea tried and relied upon hemoroid treatments (like Antirroide) as advertised on the cover. GYRALDOSE was another feminine hygiene product that saw multiple uses.

All may have treated the symptoms but did little for the real problem.
1.2 TREATMENTS

German pharmaceutical firms continued to produce a wide variety of questionable treatments like Gonocystol...

Der äußerst niedrige Preis unseres internen Antigonorrhioicum

Gonocystol

geht aus nachstehender Gegenüberstellung hervor:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capsulae Ol. Santali 0,2</th>
<th>Gonocystol</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40 Stück = Mk. 19.--</td>
<td>40 Stück = Mk. 6.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75 &quot; = 35.60</td>
<td>75 &quot; = 12.--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150 &quot; = 57.05</td>
<td>150 &quot; = 20.--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Eingehende klinische Erprobung ergab prompte Wirkung unter völliger Ausschaltung von Reizerscheinungen.

E. Tosse & Co., Laborat. für chem.-med. Präparate, Hamburg 22

... or Curt Schroeter's homeopathic and electric treatments.

5 pfg. Additional Postage for Distant letter Rate. Essen (Ruh) 15.10.08
1.2 TREATMENTS

Argyrol, a silver protein solution, was an effective treatment and prophylaxis for gonorrhea as noted on this printed to private order circular.
1.2 TREATMENTS

Strange treatments and bad advice were plentiful in an age of quackery...

Flush away your problems with White Sulphur Spring Water ->

or read all about the latest treatments and 'cures'.

The Cure of Gonorrhoea and Gleet.

Doctor, you know if anybody knows, that human flesh is weak, and therefore, as long as man is mortal Gonorrhoea will be with us.

There is no question but that Gonorrhoea is considered today a more serious disease than it was in years gone by. The modern light of pathology has been thrown upon this germ affection and found it to be one of man's most destructive diseases. Therefore a physician who undertakes to treat a case of Gonorrhoea assumes a very grave responsibility.

Why not be prepared to treat these cases? Why not be able to say that you have a treatment which will positively cure? Why not be able to give a treatment which recommends itself? Why not give them treatment which you will be proud of?

The numerous reports of practitioners from all parts of the country who have derived ideal results in the treatment of Gonorrhoea and Gleet with our combination local and internal treatment have prompted us to bring this subject more prominently to the attention of the profession.

The prevailing treatments which consist in attacking Gonorrhoea only locally—completely ignoring the secondary and systemic effects of the gonococcus and also the fact that we have remedies which can cope with these general or non-local symptoms—are woefully inadequate in the light of modern medical teaching and constitute a menace which all conscientious doctors should try to avoid.

Another point; the prognosis of Gonorrhoea has always been treated with more or less indifference by physicians, yet to the patient this question is always of great importance. Any remedy, therefore, which can assist you in giving a favorable prognosis is not to be slighted.

Published by Chicago Pharmacal Co.
A few of the more popular treatments for gonorrhea include...

Scott’s Santal Pepsin

Active ingredient was probably sandalwood oil.

Pabst’s OKAY
No relation to Pabst Brewing Co.

GONOSAN from Ridel & Company
whose active ingredients were *East Indian* Sandalwood Oil and Kava-Kava resins.
1.2 TREATMENTS

As evidenced by these wonder-remedies, quackery was alive and well in America at the beginning of the 20th Century...

... or at least until the passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906.

For centuries the only effective treatment was urethral irrigation; then in...

1881 Crede first used silver nitrate to prevent ophthalmia neonatorum.

1892 Janet introduced potassium permanganate (KMnO₄) as treatment.

ACYCAL was an effective silver-cyanide treatment from Merz & Co.
1.2 TREATMENTS

Sufferers of gonorrhea in the Far East might try ...
a Homeopathic remedy from Dr. Khan Chand Dev, a specialist in Social Diseases of both sexes ...

Telegram: - "DOCTOR KHAN CHAND" Lahore.

The Indian Homoeopathic Pharmacy
MANUFACTURING & HOMOEOPATHIC CHEMISTS,
24, Chamberlain Road, LAHORE.
Importers and Suppliers of Homeopathic Medicines, Chests, Books, Phials, Corks, Milk Sugar, etc., etc.
Proprietor:—Dr. Khan Chand Dev, M.D., Chicago (U.S.A.),
Ex-House Surgeon Norweg, American Hospital, Chicago; Ex-Chief Medical Officer, Raigah State C.I.
Specialist in Social Diseases of both the sexes.

The Abbott Alkaloidal Co.
(The Abbott Laboratories)
Ravenswood, Chicago (ILL.)
U.S.A.

ANSEPTIN”
pigment preparation highly
recommended for Gonorrhoeal
Infections

... or PANSEPTIN from S. Nakashima in the Philippines

S. NAKASHIMA
411 Reina Regente
MANILA
P. O. Box 1883
Panseptin, Paranutrin, Multin, Yatoconin, Sinomenine-
Hydrochloride, Urargol, Bio-Tomosan,
Iveton, Brom-Iveton, Kasloze, Neo-Paranutrin,
Pelamin, Forton Malarinin, Pectol,
Shiga’s Antisyphilitic, Laxatol

COPY
Circa 1930 sulfa based drugs such as Vagilan from Deutsche Hydrierwerke Rodleben (Dehydag) and...

... SULFID from Columbus Pharmacal, provided the first safe, quick, effective cure...

PENICILLIN

Penicillin became the preferred cure after WWII until resistant strains appeared in the 60s.

"We have made it possible to catch gonorrhea three times a week,"
Alexander Fleming
1.3 CURES BEYOND PENICILLIN
Erythromycin and newer antibiotics are required to control the ever-evolving gonococci.

The gonococci continue to adapt faster than the drug companies produce new meter stamps!

1.4 PHYSIOLOGY Localized infections can affect both sexes. Infected fallopian tubes can result in infertility.

Urethral strictures in males make urination difficult and painful.

In advanced cases (rare now) almost any organ may be infected. The most common are:
- skin
- joints
- heart valves
1.5 TESTING

Although the symptoms of gonorrhea may be obvious to most males, only laboratory testing can confirm vaginal cases in females and oral or rectal cases in both sexes. Note the special postal rate for "Specimens for Bacteriological Examination" as detailed in Section 461, Para 6, of the then current Postal laws and Regulations.

THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH LABORATORIES
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

H. F. PARKER, M. D.
State Health Commissioner.

CONGONORREA EXAMINATION

A RELIABLE LABORATORY REPORT DEPENDS PRIMARILY UPON CARE IN THE COLLECTION AND SHIPMENT OF THE SPECIMEN

POSTAGE RATES ON LABORATORY SPECIMENS

The Postoffice Department has ruled that specimens may be mailed at fourth class (parcel post) rates when only the information needed for the identification of the specimen is placed on the opposite side of this blank. If a telegraphic report is requested or other instructions or communications are written on the blank, first class (letter) postage is required.

DIRECTIONS FOR COLLECTING SPECIMENS

Always collect fresh discharge. Vaginal smears are worthless.

1. ACUTE OR ACTIVE CASES

MALE. Collect a small drop of fresh urethral discharge on each of the two slides and make thin even smears covering about three-fourths of the area of the slide. Allow the slides to dry in the air without heating and place them back to back in the wooden mailing case. Wet smears placed face to face do not give reliable results.

FEMALE. Collect a small drop of fresh urethral discharge after compressing the urethra with the finger and stripping toward the meatus and make a thin smear of uniform thickness on one of the slides, covering about three-fourths of the area of the slide. A second smear of fresh discharge should be made from the cervix uteri after careful cleansing of the os and without touching the walls of the vagina with the swab. A vaginal speculum should always be used in collecting specimens from the cervix uteri, as vaginal smears are worthless. Allow the slides to dry in the air without heating and then place them back to back in the wooden mailing case. Wet smears placed face to face do not give reliable results.

2. CASES SHOWING NO EVIDENCE OF DISCHARGE.

MALE. The prostate should be carefully massaged and the specimen then obtained by compressing the urethra and stripping toward the meatus. Make smears and prepare them for shipment as described above under acute or active cases.

FEMALE. Specimens should be collected from the urethra, cervix uteri and Bartholin's glands.

PARCEL POST

From Dr.: Mo.

2 CENTS

Failure to place sufficient postage will cause delay in the examination of specimen.

The State Board of Health Laboratories
JEFFERSON CITY, MO.

"Specimen for Bacteriological Examination. THIS PACKAGE to be pouched with LETTER MAIL." See Section 461, ¶ 6, P. L. and R.

Lab. 15-10M-1-40. 0312 E 012147