

General Technological Advances in Medicine



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Open the news these days and all of you will see or hear is advances in computer power, wind turbines, and renewable energy, applications and internet news, and sometimes, advances in medicine. What we don't realize is that, these days, finding out what is wrong medically with a patient has gotten more organized, following certain well-defined schematics and amazing technological advances. With the aid or numerous research papers, advances in Radiology and Laboratory diagnostics, plus newer pharmacological achievements, medicine has become less related to bad

luck and more based on actual facts, such as genetics and environment.

For example, the MRI machine, which most of us have entered or seen, was only invented in the late seventies, by Dr. Raymond Damadian, an American Armenian. Genetic studies were only available for labs in the mid-nineties, although their discovery was 50 years back. An ECG today can be done via a bracelet worn 24/7, connected to your mobile, which in turn is connected to your cardiologist.

Of course, none of these advances were going to be ready for public use without the advance in the basic computer system. All of the MRI, CT and genetics PCR machines use computers to do their jobs. In fact, recent advances in MRIs have been achieved thanks to their "smarter" computers, and not the core magnet or engine. These computers have been programmed to separate blood from bone from other connective tissues and make it easier for the radiologist to come to a conclusion. Same goes to Lab analyzers, which use less blood to do more tests, and all of this is quicker, and with less errors than if it were in complete human hands.

Disadvantages are always present for such advances, but these are well studied problems, known to be there. We can try to avoid them, but if they appear, we know what to do. Like the side effects of some medicines, we know they can happen, and what to do if they occur. Besides, although using this technology costs, the money saved from knowing you have high glucose or cholesterol, or a bulged disc is more important than not knowing and eventually ending up in a deeper hole with higher costs.

In conclusion, recent advances in computation, in addition to numerous research and development of medical analyzers in all fields have given hope and therapy to many patients. Compared to ancient civilization, where death and disease were due to angry "Gods", we are now better off with more advanced technology and knowledge to discover our inner bodies and external environment. With our God's grace, we hope to advance further and further.



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