

AVOIDING CLINICAL ERRORS BY APPLYING METACOGNITION

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CONSULTANT
A

Right wrist pain following a minor trauma

X ray -Inconclusive

Splint for 4 weeks - no relief

MRI – Asymptomatic cyst in the scaphoid and lunate

Conservative treatment for 1 year without relief

Diagnosis - 'hyperactive synovium'

Treatment – surgical stripping of synovium'

CONSULTANT
B

MRI - hairline fracture in the scaphoid, three bone cysts and displaced tendon

Recommended 3 procedures; pin the fracture, draining the cyst and bone graft and repositioning tendon

Recovery period – 24 months

CONSULTANT
C



Instant decision - arthroscopy



...Diagnosis.....?



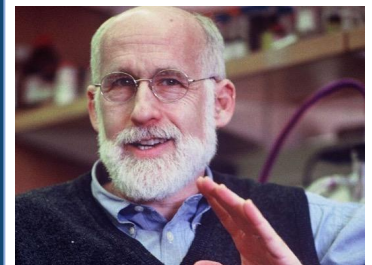
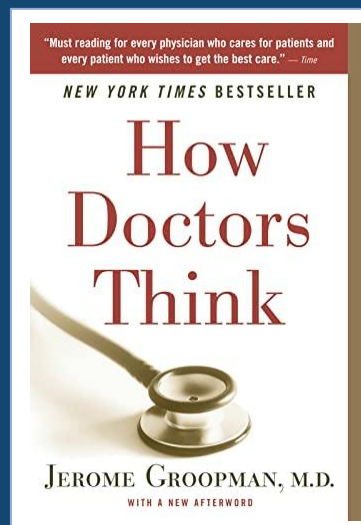
"I will figure it out when I get there"

CONSULTANT D

Both hands x-rayed during a manoeuvre

Diagnosis - partially torn ligament between scaphoid & lunate with channels in the cyst causing inflammation

Successful surgery of bone grafting the cyst & ligament repair



WHY DO WE NEED TO TAKE ERRORS SERIOUSLY

Clinical error is one of the leading causes of death in the developed world.

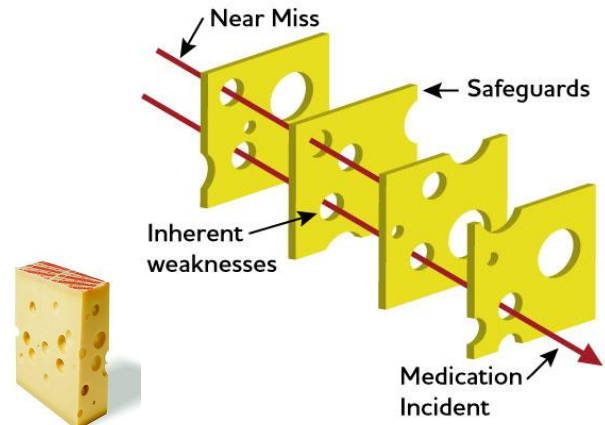
Clinical decision-making can be considered a significant threat to the patient safety.

More than 30% of healthcare costs are wasted on inappropriate care, which can be attributed to the quality of clinical decisions.

Analysis of clinical decisions has revealed that a significant number of errors occur because of inappropriate thinking.

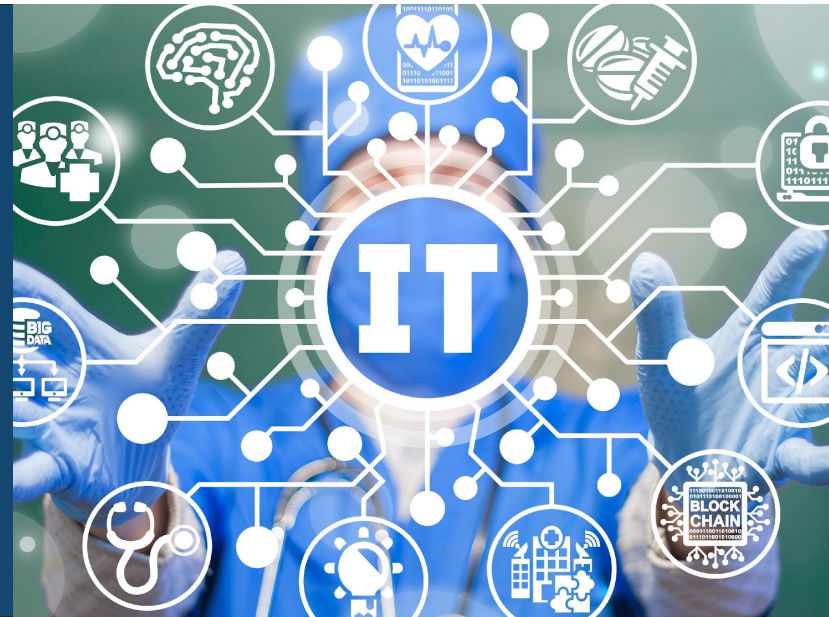
Adverse events are linked to failures in cognitive skills.

SWISS CHEESE MODEL



CHALLENGES IN CLINICAL DECISION-MAKING

- Variability in decisions
- Limitations of evidence-based medicine (EBM)
- Information technology
- Myths of experience
- Non-clinical factors- psycho-social factors



Decision Making Skills



