

How Doctors Think

By Jerome Groopman

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On average, a physician will interrupt a patient describing her symptoms within eighteen seconds. In that short time, many doctors decide on the likely diagnosis and best treatment. Often, decisions made this way are correct, but at crucial moments they can also be wrong -- with catastrophic consequences. In this myth-shattering book, Jerome Groopman pinpoints the forces and thought processes behind the decisions doctors make. Groopman explores why doctors err and shows when and how they can -- with our help -- avoid snap judgments, embrace uncertainty, communicate effectively, and deploy other skills that can profoundly impact our health. This book is the first to describe in detail the warning signs of erroneous medical thinking and reveal how new technologies may actually hinder accurate diagnoses. How Doctors Think offers direct, intelligent questions patients can ask their doctors to help them get back on track.

Groopman draws on a wealth of research, extensive interviews with some of the country’s best doctors, and his own experiences as a doctor and as a patient. He has learned many of the lessons in this book the hard way, from his own mistakes and from errors his doctors made in treating his own debilitating medical problems.

How Doctors Think reveals a profound new view of twenty-first-century medical practice, giving doctors and patients the vital information they need to make better judgments together.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly
Drawing on both personal experience and extensive field research, Dr. Groopman sheds light on the faulty decision making that leads otherwise competent physicians down the wrong path in diagnosing and treating their patients. Groopman stresses the imperative for his colleagues to balance clinical formulas and data with keen insight and for patients to engage their physicians in active dialogue. Like the heroic fictional doctors in prime-time television medical dramas, Groopman advances a humane, patient-focused agenda that flies in the face of the bureaucratic, institutional establishment, but refreshingly, he manages to steer clear of pat answers and smug solutions that characterize much of the popular media's take on health care. With more than 450 titles under his belt, accomplished narrator Michael Prichard exhibits a calm, authoritative command of the material. His less-is-more approach to conveying emotion may strike some listeners as detached and lacking passion, but his steady performance fits nicely with Groopman's sensitive—but still highly inquisitive—exploration of life and death questions.
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From Bookmarks Magazine
Jerome Groopman, Harvard professor of medicine, AIDS and cancer researcher, and *New Yorker* staff writer in medicine and biology, isn't new to the popular medical-writing scene. Before *How Doctors Think*, he penned three other books—*The Anatomy of Hope, Second Opinions*, and *The Measure of Our Days*—that explore the role of art in the hard science of medicine. Here, Groopman's readable prose emphasizes the human element, the give-and-take so important to successful diagnosis and treatment. One critic, however, compares the book's medical pyrotechnics to an episode of the medical show *House*, while another takes issue with the author's stance against Big Pharma. For the most part, critics see Groopman's latest effort as a compelling meditation on the interactions between doctors and patients—an effort reminding us that mistakes and miscommunications can be minimized but not eliminated.

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From Booklist
By far the largest number of examples *New Yorker* staff writer and Harvard physician Groopman adduces to show how doctors think shows them thinking well for the good of their patients. In the initial example, one doctor seen by a woman with a long-standing weight-loss condition concedes being stumped and sends her to a specialist who finds the cause of her woes and, most probably, saves her from an early death. Both physicians are praiseworthy, the second more than the first only because he believed a patient whom others had come to pooh-pooh as a complainer and then thought of examining for something that the others had missed. The lesson? A doctor has to think with the patient, not despite or against her or from an assumption of superior knowledge. Subsequent chapters show doctors thinking in resistance to economic pressure by hospitals and insurers, in thorough solidarity with parents about their children's care, against a host of professional assumptions and in resistance to pestering by drug companies--all to help patients achieve their own goals as far as possible. An epilogue suggests a few questions patients should ask to help their doctors think clearly and, as the last chapter's title puts it, "In Service of the Soul." A book to restore faith in an often-resented profession, well enough written to warrant its quarter-million-copy first printing. *Ray Olson*
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Harry Crawford:

Have you spare time for the day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? That's why, you can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent their spare time to take a walk, shopping, or went to the Mall. How about open or read a book eligible How Doctors Think? Maybe it is being best activity for you. You recognize beside you can spend your time with the favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with it has the opinion or you have different opinion?

Leon Fisher:

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Belinda Bedard:

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Clement Williams:

On this era which is the greater man or woman or who has ability in doing something more are more special than other. Do you want to become certainly one of it? It is just simple approach to have that. What you are related is just spending your time almost no but quite enough to possess a look at some books. One of several books in the top collection in your reading list is How Doctors Think. This book that is qualified as The Hungry Slopes can get you closer in turning into precious person. By looking way up and review this book you can get many advantages.

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