

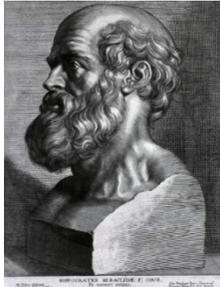
4. The digestive system

4.3 Historical representations of digestion

4.3.1

In the 2nd century

HIPPOCRATES AND GALEN

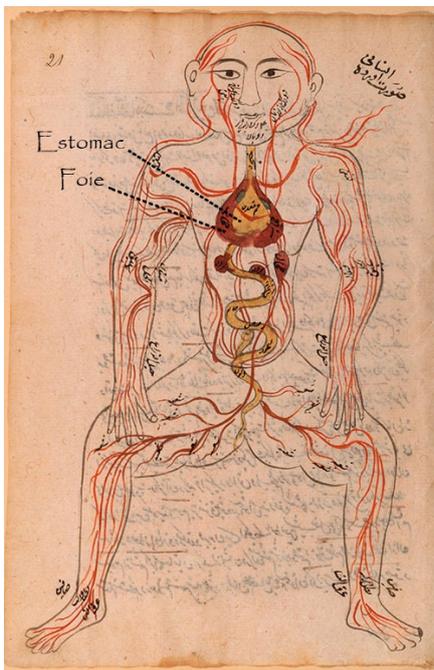


Hippocrates is often held up as being the Father of Medicine. This is because he is the oldest Greek doctor whose writings we still have.

After him, we think of Galen as being the most famous Greek doctor of Antiquity, This is probably because his treatises on digestion have dominated medicine for fourteen centuries.



GALEN



COOKING FOOD

Galen described digestion as cooking food.

First of all, chewing physically prepares food, then the stomach cooks it.

To help this process along, the lobes of the liver surround the stomach and heat it up.

GOING INTO THE BLOODSTREAM

Having undergone a first round of cooking, food then passes from the intestine into the liver where it is turned into blood – which will go on to feed different parts of the body, passing through the veins.

Credits: National Library of France

“Estomac”: Stomach, “Foie”: liver

Those of you who know about the different stages of digestion are aware that the reality is more complex than this, but it was a good start for those times!

In the 2nd century

Who is often referred to as the Father of Modern Medicine?

- Hippocampus
- Hippocrates
- Hypocrite

What legacy remains from Hippocrates, the ancient Greek physician?

- His written work
- His tools
- His bones

What is the name of the second best-known ancient Greek physician?

- Galileo
- Galen
- Galak

For how long did Galen's work on digestion preside?

- 2 centuries
- 8 centuries
- 14 centuries

According to Galen, the body digests food by...

- disintegrating it
- cooking it
- rotting it

According to Galen, which organ cooks food in the body?

- The liver
- The mouth
- The stomach

According to Galen, food is transformed into blood...

- in the liver
- in the intestines
- in the pancreas

Galen was right about food being converted to blood.

- True
- False

Answers

Who is often referred to as the Father of Modern Medicine?

- Hippocampus
Wrong! Not a bad try, though.
- Hippocrates
Well done! That's right.
- Hypocrite
Wrong! Try again!

What legacy remains from Hippocrates, the ancient Greek physician?

- His written work
Well done! Hippocrates is frequently cited as the Father of Modern Medicine.
- His tools
Wrong! That's not the right answer.
- His bones
Wrong! Try again!

What is the name of the second best-known ancient Greek physician?

- Galileo
Wrong! Galileo made other discoveries.
- Galen
Well done! That's right.
- Galak
Wrong! Nice try, though.

For how long did Galen's work on digestion preside?

- 2 centuries
Wrong! It's a lot more.
- 8 centuries
Wrong! It is longer than that.
- 14 centuries
Well done! That's right.

According to Galen, the body digests food by...

- disintegrating it
Wrong! Try again!
- cooking it
Well done! That's right!
- rotting it
Wrong! That's not the right answer.

According to Galen, which organ cooks food in the body?

- The liver
Wrong! According to Galen, the liver envelops the stomach to heat it.
- The mouth
Wrong! That's not the right answer.
- The stomach
Well done! That's right!

According to Galen, food is transformed into blood...

- in the liver
Well done! That's right.
- in the intestines
Wrong! That's not the right answer.
- in the pancreas
Wrong! Try again!

Galen was right about food being converted to blood.

- True
Wrong! That's not the correct answer.
- False
Well done! We now know that this is not true, but back then, it was a good start.