

**Galen in early modern English medicine: case-studies in history,
pharmacology and surgery 1618-1794**

Submitted by Lisa Charlotte Jarman, to the University of Exeter as a thesis for
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Abstract

This thesis examines the influence of Galen (*b.* 129 AD) on medicine in England between 1618 and 1794, approaching the study of his authority and the use of his work through three case-studies: histories of medicine, pharmacology, and surgery. The histories of medicine illustrate the variety of ways in which Galen is referred to, both as a historical figure, and as an ongoing contemporary influence. His importance in terms of accessing the knowledge of the ancients, and as a fixed point in time around which to discuss the history of medicine, and to situate other practitioners over a broad time period, underlines the significance of his role within medicine. Similarly, the pharmacological texts examined provide a more tangible sense of the influence of Galen, and their varied, but formulaic structures enable specific remedies to be traced over time and their corresponding associations and details compared between different editions. Identifying the role of Galen within surgical treatises also allows for a more theoretical aspect of surgery to be explored, providing a different perspective on an area more frequently portrayed as a manual art. The use of Galenic texts within each case-study, in particular the histories of medicine, demonstrates a significant and nuanced engagement with the content of his works, reiterating the importance of his contribution, and showing the value ascribed to the simplicity offered by past approaches. It is evident that a shift had occurred from the acceptance of ancient authority based on convention, to evaluating the simplicity and utility of information on an individual basis. The value ascribed to utility in the assessment of medical knowledge is evident throughout these texts, which also demonstrate the importance of the experience and observations of the practitioner in facilitating the ongoing and significant use of the influence of Galen.

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Appendices

Appendix A Galen as source – summary of Galenic works referenced

This table shows the titles (in Latin and English) of all the different Galenic works that are mentioned within the early modern texts studied, and also shows in which of the other Appendix documents they are discussed.

Appendix B Galen as source – table of references and citations *Galenic texts with English translation*

These tables of citations and references show where Galen is utilised as a source, and link each individual reference to the specific Galenic text. They are arranged in order of the number of times each text is mentioned in the early modern works, and then by the order in which they appear in Kühn.

Appendix C Galen as source – table of references and citations *Galenic texts without English translation*

These tables of citations and references show where Galen is utilised as a source, relating to texts not currently available in English, which limits the possibility of verifying the reference. They are arranged in order of the number of times each text is mentioned in the early modern works, and then by the order in which they appear in Kühn.

Appendix D Galen as source – summary table of references and citations shown in Appendices B and C

These tables summarise the content of Appendices B and C, showing the Galenic texts referenced, alongside the authors mentioning them and brief additional information, including the specific books and chapters where this is provided.

Appendix E The table entitled ‘A CHRONOLOGICAL CHART OF MEDICAL AND SURGICAL AUTHORS’ within William Black’s *An historical sketch of medicine and surgery* (1782).

This provides a great deal of information regarding the broad narrative of the history of medicine, and shows the relative dates of activity and general area of medicine of notable practitioners from 400 BC to 1800 AD.

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