

Interesting In- and Outpatient Attendances at Hogwarts Infirmary and St Mungo's Hospital for Magical Maladies

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Abstract

Ailments afflicting wizarding folk are underreported in the muggle world. The recent integration of muggles and magical folk with the return of You-Know-Who (aka He Who Must Not Be Named) may result in a similar affliction of inhabitants of both worlds. We describe interesting maladies afflicting muggles and wizarding folk alike, arising from the use and misuse of magic. We also provide a basic glossary of magical ailments, and describe their muggle corollaries. Further studies will hopefully result in the development of immunity against the unforgiveable curses.

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Introduction

With the return of “You Know Who” (YKW) and the rise of Death Eaters, injuries amongst both muggle and wizarding folk (MF and WF) have escalated. Muggle medicine, with its quaint dependence on potions and “technology”, is inadequate to deal with magical injuries, and has much to learn from our healing arts. Similarities between the two are obvious. Muggles, too, have a fondness for cats – much has been made of cat scans. The chronicles of the muggle Rowling¹⁻⁶ have given far too many secrets away, but some good has come out of muggle intervention. Muggles have investigated the “heritance” of wizardry with their funny technology, and have discovered muggle and wizarding genes,⁷ which explain how muggle-born wizards and warlocks come to their gifts.

In a collaborative effort between the Infirmary at Hogwarts (HI) and St Mungo's Hospital for Magical Maladies (SMHMM), we have described interesting ailments affecting MF and WF. We describe their aetiology, pathogenesis and treatment. Thanks to the assiduous record-keeping of Mdm Poppy Pomfrey (PP), some conditions and sicknesses not seen at either of the institutions have also been noted for reference.

Methods

We *trolled* the case records of all patients seen at HI and SMHMM between years 1 and 6 HP (years since the

chronicles of Harry Potter). 1 to 6 HP covers the period 1997 to 2006 AD (in muggle years). The journals of PP have also provided clinical material for this study. PP, as part of her TOADs in the Healing Arts, trained at St Bartholemews Hospital in London (she thought it was a magical hospital for cats).

Results

There were 666 and 5043 attendances at HI and SMHMM, respectively. Of this combined total of 5709, 209 were MF, and 5500 WF. The 5500 magical folk comprised 908 wizards, 579 witches, 8 trolls, 9 ghosts, 18 poltergeists, 1800 house-elves, 3 centaurs, 1 unicorn and 2172 goblins. Two were of indeterminate subtype. Outwizard ailments (hexes, confounding spells, poisoning by potion) of the everyday variety were dealt with the sweep of a wand⁸ or with counterurses.⁹ We noted an increase in injuries and deaths from HP4 with the return of YKW. Three wizards and 1 witch died upon arrival at the A & E (Apparition and Elevation) Department after having received the “*Avada Kedavra*” unforgiveable curse at the hands of YKW (Fig. 1). Table 1 lists interesting cases amongst both WF and MF respectively, and describes in detail their mechanisms of injury, remedies, as well as assorted interesting details. All patients gave magical consent (except 3 wizards, who hexed us when we tried) and most allowed publication of their identities. All studies were carried out

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Table 1. Ailments Affecting Wizarding and Muggle Folk, their Muggle Equivalents, Aetiology, Cure and Special Notes¹⁻⁶

Nature of ailment	Muggle equivalent	Aetiology	Treatment	Patient identity (Optional)	Notes
Affliction of wizards					
Petrification	Locked-in syndrome (Basilar artery thrombosis)	1. “ <i>Petrificus totalis</i> ” and “ <i>Stupefy</i> ” (temporary, benign) 2. Staring into the reflection of a basilisk	1. None necessary 2. Potion from adult mandrake root	1. Multiple 2. Hermione Granger, Colin Creevey et al	2. Fatal if direct gaze. (Moaning Myrtle) Ghosts can also be petrified.
Confounding/Memory loss	Amnesia	Memory and confounding charms (“ <i>Confundus</i> ”)	No known cure	Gilderoy Lockheart (Patient does not remember who he is)	Patients usually admitted to SMHMM. Confounding spells used on muggle witnesses.
Acne	Acne	Pure sap of bubotuber (bubopus)	Interestingly, an extract of bubopus	Withheld (Patient in tears)	Handle with dragonhide gloves
Vomiting slugs	Emesis	Misapplication of “ <i>Eat Slugs</i> ” with broken wand	None. Vomiting into a pail. “Better in than out”	Ron Weasley	Ensure your wand isn’t broken
Terminal airhead	Pneumocephalus	Congenital	None	Sybil Trelawney	Can still make occasional real predictions. Tendency to look like a dragonfly.
Fainting	Syncope	Contact with dementors	Chocolate or conjuring up a corporeal patronus (Expecto patronum)	Harry Potter	Think happy thoughts
Depression	Depression	Contact with dementors	As above	Almost everyone (Only Harry Potter faints)	Steer clear of Azkaban
Cat-face disease	Cat-scratch disease (not quite the same thing)	Polyjuice potion with cat hair	A tincture of time and Mdm Pomfrey’s help (not revealed, even by author no. 2 to other authors)	Hermione Granger	Don’t mess with Pansy Parkinson
Anosteopathy (Sudden disappearance of bones) aka Lockheart’s disease	Osteoporosis, osteogenesis imperfecta, osteonecrosis (all not quite the same thing)	Gilderoy Lockheart – bumbling blowhard	Skele-grow	Harry Potter	Regrowing bones is a nasty business
Werewolf syndrome	Lupus	A bite from a werewolf	None. Though nameless potion can help keep transformation in abeyance	Remus Lupin	Electrolysis is not helpful
Irish jig syndrome	Restless legs syndrome	“ <i>Tarantallegra</i> ”	“ <i>Finite Incantatum</i> ”	Harry Potter and others	Lord of the Dance, anyone?
Silverhand	Amputation/Prosthetic limb	Need to serve master (YKW)	At YKW’s pleasure	Wormtail	Luke Skywalker, beware
Muggle afflictions					
Ton tongue	Macroglossia	Ton-tongue toffee (Engorgement charm in toffee)	Shrinking charm necessary	Dudley Dursley	Don’t be a pig
Fat as a pig	Obesity	Overeating	Abstinence and exercise	Any of the Dursleys (except Aunt Petunia)	Progressive disease. Can cause pseudomicro-ophthalmia
Pig tail	Caudal appendage	Curse from wand disguised as an umbrella	Requires muggle surgery	Dudley Dursley (though magical reversal possible for non-Dursleys)	Don’t mess with Hagrid
Inflated aunt syndrome	Subcutaneous emphysema, bloatedness	Angering Harry Potter	Needs intervention from Ministry of Magic (and application of confounding spells)	Marge Dursley	May cause floating sensation

SMHMM: St Mungo’s Hospital for Magical Maladies; YKW: You Know Who

Table 2. Useful Charms, Potions and Whatnots¹⁻⁶

Potion/Charm/Spell/Remedy	Cause/Effect/Use
Pepper-up potion	Cures colds/May have use for muggle diseases like Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Avian Influenza
Cheering charms	Treatment of depression (Muggles are considering trial comparing cheering charms with fluoxetine)
Skele-grow	Good for orthopaedic/connective tissue diseases like osteogenesis imperfecta Helpful for character faults (spinelessness)
Charm used in goblet of fire to detect underaged contestants (unnamed)	A cure for baldness (but only if you are under 16)
Bubopus (extract)	Ultimate acne cure
Engorgement charms/shrinking charms	To replace plastic surgery
Pensieve	Storing memories: useful for patients with dementia
Expecto patronum	Because we can always use a patronus



Fig. 1. Unidentifiable remains of wizard patient #235 after having been cursed with the “*Avada Kedavra*” curse. Investigators Rita Skeeter and Peter Pettigrew (aka Wormtail) participating in skullduggery.

according to CONSORT (Chants On Nights when Spells Only Result in Tears) guidelines. Table 2 lists spells, potions and magical remedies that may be useful in the future, but for whom there is only level FROG evidence of efficacy.

Discussion

Suspicion within the wizarding community has resulted in many WF looking askance at muggle medicine. Weasley has, for years, maintained the wonders of muggle technology.¹⁰ It is, however, irrefutable, that the magical healing arts will do more for the muggle community than the converse. Detractors of the HOME (Help Ordinary

Muggles Everyday) programme¹¹ have garnered some support from various quarters, but we must remember that there is strength in numbers, and we need all the strength we can muster in our good fight against YKW. As collaborations between MF and WF healers take place, we can look forward to a cornucopia of new treatments that will help us survive even the unforgiveable curses.

Declarations

1. This article was submitted as a dissertation for the T.O.A.D examination (*Terribly difficult tests of the Occult Arts leading to a Doctorate in magic*), conducted by the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry and Ministry of Magic.
2. The authors have no financial affiliation with the Harry Potter series of books by JK Rowling. Although they wish they did.
3. Competing Interests – None identified

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