Modern Medicine: The Impact of War

Starter: In what ways has war led to progress in medicine since the Middle Ages – can you think of specific examples?



Modern Medicine: The Impact of War

Copy and complete

			•
War is an important f driving change			
If m services are good more soldiers will s			
and return to combat increasing the c			of victory
Medicine develops r as governments pour			
m i	nto finding new	\prime ways of t_	servicemen
New w	such as m		guns, high explosive
s, g etc. inflict terrible injuries			
Doctors and surgeons on the b			have to develop
new ideas in	order to s	lives	•
Doctors and surgeons have more o to test of the state of the			
new ideas			
Over 10 m	peop	le were k	in WW1 and
over 20 million in WW2. Millions more were i			

Medical million machine injured factor survive chance battlefield opportunities killed rapidly Weapons money treating shells save Gas

How did war make a difference to surgery?

- Use the information boxes to complete the table showing the impact of WW1 and WW2 on surgery
- Read the section on P72 and list the positive and negative impact of war on medical progress?

Challenge:

Does the positive outweigh the negative? Explain

Watch these clips and make notes

- https://teara.govt.nz/en/video/46399/great-warstories-harold-gillies-in-the-first-world-war
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=my14ZuzjH5I

Impact of technology on surgery

- Read page 75 (impact of technology on surgery)
- Match the beginning of the sentence to the end write these out (on the same sheet as your table)

CHALLENGE: Explain how technology has helped developments since the second world war



What else led to progress in surgery?

- More effective and safer anaesthetics have been developed
- Modern anaesthetics use a mixture of chemicals to produce gradual loss of consciousness and a reduction in pain.
- Patients recover more quickly and experience fewer side effects.
- Surgeons can work more slowly and more carefully and attempt complex and delicate procedures.
- Specialised anaesthetics allow brain surgery with the patient still conscious. Epidurals are commonly used in childbirth
- Local anaesthetics are now routinely used for all kinds of minor surgery including dentistry.
- Local anaesthetics are safe and easy to administer. Cocaine was first used as a local anaesthetic in 1884, numbing one part of the body while the patient remained conscious. In 1905 novocaine was found to be more effective.
- ▶ In 1942 surgeons used curare, a South American poison, as a muscle relaxant — it is still in use today.

CHALLENGE: Can Science and Technology go too far? Ethical questions to think about

- Is it right to enable a childless couple to have a baby?
- Is it right to allow couples to choose the sex of their baby?
- Have the advances in transplant surgery encouraged an illegal trade in kidneys and other organs 'taken' from the poor in other parts of the world?
- Are their echoes of the Nazis in attempts to remove genetic defects from society / create a perfect race?
- Embryo research when is the cut off point?
- Mitochondrial donation and three person babies?
- http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-37485263
- Is cloning acceptable?

Just because something is possible doesn't mean it is desirable....