

A Sense of Humor: How Hippocratic Traditions Revolutionized Greek Medicine
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The Hippocratic Corpus is a collection of medical texts written by Hippocrates, an ancient Greek physician, and his students. These texts describe specific medical practices followed by Hippocratic physicians and contain many observations about diseases and their progression in the human body. Ancient Greek medicine did exist before the development of Hippocratic medicine; however, it was much less organized and sophisticated. Here, I aim to identify the ways in which Hippocratic medicine revolutionized medical traditions in ancient Greece. This research is based on analysis of multiple Hippocratic works, including *Aphorisms*, *Epidemics*, *Affections*, and *The Hippocratic Oath*. These works are all original documents developed during and after the life of Hippocrates in the fourth and fifth centuries BCE. Examination of such texts reveals the influence of Hippocratic tradition on many advancements in Greek medicine, particularly in the way physicians understood and treated diseases as well as the way medicine was practiced as a whole. In particular, Hippocratic tradition contributed to Greek medicine by removing disease from a supernatural context, increasing accurate prognoses based on detailed observations, and promoting personalized medical treatments. These were all significant developments in western medical tradition, as they increased the accuracy of prognoses and effectivity of treatments, ultimately resulting in a higher standard of patient care. This presentation will primarily focus on Hippocratic methods of observation-based prognosis and the effects of such methods on physician-prescribed treatments. Additionally, it will briefly address the ways in which Hippocratic medicine has influenced modern medicinal practices, and the ways in which modern medicine could still learn from the ancient Greek Hippocratic tradition.