



Testing Treatments: Better Research for Better Healthcare

Imogen Evans, Hazel Thornton, Iain Chalmers

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This work provides a thought-provoking account of how medical treatments can be tested with unbiased or 'fair' trials and explains how patients can work with doctors to achieve this vital goal. It spans the gamut of therapy from mastectomy to thalidomide and explores a vast range of case studies.

Testing Treatments: Better Research for Better Healthcare Details

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From Reader Review Testing Treatments: Better Research for Better Healthcare for online ebook

Charlotte Davies says

Well written and easy to read. As Shane implied, no new knowledge and no surprises.

Angela Randall says

Recommended as further reading by Ben Goldacre in Bad Science.

Mark says

Well done. I think some of the rave reviews are of the type - "I think YOU could learn a lot from it".

Aphrael says

Good recommendations supported by somewhat anecdotal stories. Still, it gives a framework to question treatments and evidence, and how to be a better patient

Hannes says

Everyone must read this book. In it you'll find out many of the things you've always wondered (or should have wondered) about modern medicine. The books authors ensure that it is very well written and easy to understand even if you know nothing about medicine or medical research. You'll walk away from Testing Treatments knowing how to think about the esoteric monolith that is Medicine.

Rawaa says

If I was to consider the book to be addressed to people within the health care sector, my rating would drop slightly. But as a book aimed to the general public, it does a good job in giving an adequate overview as well as most of the necessary basic knowledge regarding medical research and treatments, how it's set and how physicians and surgeons proceed with both.

It did emphasize the importance of unbiased experiments and encouraged patients to seek them and be part of them in nearly all of his chapters. I liked that - the idea that improving the available medical practice is not only our responsibility but the patients' too; a better healthcare is everyone's responsibility and every single person must understand how he or she can do their role and then proceed to doing it well with no hesitation ! Additionally, the way he emphasized and repeatedly highlighted the significance of systematic reviews is

admirable. I come from an institution where we have to do a research of some sort in our 3rd year, and most students opt for systematic reviews cuz they are “easy” and “doable in a week with the rest of the block taken as a lovely vacation.” Well, it depends on your standards but having such a mentality growing around here did distort the importance of systematic reviews in the mind of many students. Now, this important consolidation of evidence isn’t appreciated as much due to that association and most students would opt for the fun original researches to get new evidence, adding up to the growing pile of unused new knowledge !

Again, this, to me, was a good overview to concepts and prices of knowledge I’m mostly familiar with. But, that doesn’t mean it won’t do a good educating role to those with interest from the general public. (As one of the reviewers said, I doubt that people who aren’t in the medical field and interested in medical research would pick this book up, making this book a simple revision for the rest of us. But let’s hope so! At least young medics would see it as a nice welcome, enriched with knowledge, to the world of research !)

Eva Cg says

Something everybody should read, know and understand. It’s not complicated and it explains essential concepts in medical research which every patient should know.

Chris says

Excellent, (reasonably) plain language explanation of overdiagnosis, medical uncertainty, patient involvement in research, and fair, randomized clinical trials. Takes on some really hairy topics like lead-time bias. Gets a little preachy in the research regulation chapter and the figures could be better explained but except for those small issues, this is informative and useful. And it’s a free pdf download.

Thanks, Julia Belluz of vox.com for the recommendation.

Alex Linschoten says

Excellent overview of issues from patient's perspective as well as of issues within the medical profession relating to testing of treatments and how to encourage learning from mistakes in a systematic way. Recommended if you ever think about health issues/practice.

Shane Sargent says

It's a solid read with a fantastic take-away lesson, and likely deserves a higher rating if one were to read it without background. However, I suspect anybody taking the time to seek it out and read it is coming into the work with a respectable foundation of the issues it addresses.

Juan Carlos says

This is a great book. Is a book full of facts, good examples and references. It may not be the kind of "fun to read" that characterizes similar books like the ones of Goldacre, but is indeed a great reference to talk, think and act against bad practices in the health industry.

James says

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Timothy Corbett-Clark says

Everybody should read this...
