

The forgotten stories on patients who made history

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ABSTRACT

Basic books on medical eponyms, history of medicine or medical dictionaries, describe usually the historical contribution of scientists and physicians. It is impossible to ignore the role of patients in some medical discoveries. Some diseases have been named after the person who first described the condition. Sometimes diseases are

named after a place (Bornholm disease, Lyme disease, Ebola hemorrhagic fever) and even societies (Legionnaires' disease). Rarely a disease was named after a patient. In this short article I describe my collection of a few relatively unknown medical stories and the patients behind them.

Key words: medical eponyms, history, medicine, patients
