

Where Does the Patient Go in Quantification? Quality Cannot be Measured



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Submission: May 22, 2021; Published: May 27, 2021

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Opinion

At the time of Augustus, thanks to the augustinian plague, medicine, represented mainly by the Greek people in Rome at that time, is among the so-called artes professions. Originally there belonged a lawyer, teacher and surveyor, in the concept of the Roman profession, who was both an architect and a builder. These professions represented a certain art in their operation, a significant internal, subjective deposit with a high degree of education, the ability to know. Thanks to technology, the contemporary world tends, because it is a technical area, to move everything to try to measure everything. This trend also significantly instemlines the field of artes professions, an exception to today's form of surveying. In medicine, the importance of the subjective component begins to disappear. There is a tendency towards objectification, i.e., measurement. This leads to a system where the doctor already loses the ability to examine the patient at the expense of paraclinical examinations – these are imaging methods, chemical laboratory methods. The doctor has trouble perceiving the patient's difficulties with his senses – to hear, to see, to feel, to perceive psychological problems.

Everything needs to be measured, we are victims of metrics. But even measurement has its flaws. And beware, all errors in the instrument chain are always added up. In many cases, in normal practice, the doctor does not know the sensitivity, specificity, and validity of the given measuring techniques, instruments. By living in a world of measurement, we want to measure everything. but. From the Latin question how much – quantum? the concept of quantity has arisen. It is a concept where it is possible to measure using physical methods – length, time, number, etc. From the Latin question what? – qualis? – the concept of quality was

created. It is an indication of the properties of the object that we are able to perceive with our senses (sight, hearing, smell of taste, touch, ability to perceive energies) with a completely subjective evaluation. It is a property where we are willing to confuse it subjectively, internally with another similar property that subjectively seems more advantageous to us. Ludwig von Mises describes the quality very aptly in his book: Human action: A Treatise on Economics.

Quality is what I am subjectively willing to confuse with another of these qualities. Compared to the quantity I'm able to objectively measure. But thanks to the tyranny of metrics (Jerry Z. Muller), we also try to measure quality. These are pseudomethods – do we measure pseudoquat or pseudoquality? Thanks to this, we get distortions of information because we measure what is easiest to measure, I have a set of measured simple quantities, but the necessary output is complex or unmeasfiabile. So, we measure inputs instead of outputs, devalue the quantity of information by standardization, because quantification leads us to sort and simplify. Thus, information in numerical form becomes an ideal. This leads to manipulation, embellishment, improvement of the result by lowering standards, improvement of numerical omission values and data distorting, and even directly cheating.

And all of this is gradually losing its essence – the artes profession of doctor combining quality with quantity in its object of work interest into one balanced whole, in the most dishonest place, on the pedestal stands the patient.

References

1. Jerry Z.Muller: The Tyranny of Metrics.
2. Ludwig von Mises: The Human Action: A Treatise on Economics.



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DOI: 10.19080/OAJNN.2021.15.555912

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