

The art of conversation in pediatrics - the success of preventing diagnostic errors

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Diagnostic errors in Pediatrics represent a branch which is less explored and accepted. Mistakes are not easy to accept by anyone, and doctors make no exception. In order to carry out his activity in optimum conditions, a doctor must be versed not only in Pediatrics pathology, but also in child psychology. The main causes for diagnostic errors in Pediatrics are the wrong information received from the carers and the patient himself.

For small children, communication is difficult, given that they do not know all the necessary words, which prevents them from describing what is bothering them. Things are different for older children, which have a tendency to hide certain aspects about their life, but these exact details may cause further harm to their health. The authors showcase the cases of two children which describe perfectly the mentioned typologies. The first case is that of a two years old boy, known for an unique ventricle and epilepsy. At first he was diagnosed with sleepiness due to treatment with phenobarbital, but later on it was found that he suffered from cerebral thrombosis. Second case is that of a 12-years old girl who, for two years, underwent a wrong treatment for a disease that she did not have.

The quality of the information gathered by the physician during his investigations is tightly connected to the communication abilities with the small patient, the observation awareness and the promptness showcased during the examination.

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