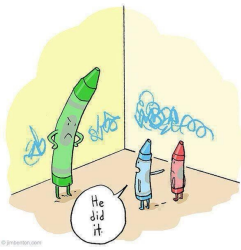


Word a Day - iatrogenic

iatrogenic : If this is not a new word to learn, then nothing to read here. Else, here is what it may mean outside of the clutches of a dictionary, and how well it can be twisted, read on.



Fungal Crisis, in all colours! Mucormycosis is a difficult condition to manage, a life threatening after effect of the life saving steroid immunosuppressants. Medical text books have always said so, heaps of supportive data, doctors know that too, and there's a whole subject of tropical medicine that includes dealing with ambient fungal spores in Indian heat and humidity.

Haven't we all seen or heard of the critically ill, discharged after expensive, painful and prolonged intensive care in hospitals, coming home and passing away within a few days or a month? We just did not connect it to the deadly Mucormycosis or any similar bacterial invasion then.

Anyway, on admission, patients sign up for every eventuality including loss of limb or organ function, or life itself. Why not just be honest about the immunosuppression as the cause of this Fungal phenomenon? Why take a convoluted route or blame all else?

Here are some strange plans that unfolded in recent times:

- Reuters makes a documentary, times it well to amplify a small group of cow dung bathers as the source for contamination, and makes these weirdos representative of 1.3 billion Indians' habits.
- Target GoMūtra from a 100 perspectives.
- Colgate cries that their sales have been dismal since PM Modi took charge. Probably to tangentially link it with hygiene, contamination and then black fungus. Just because people dumped the once unchallenged brand?! What if Washing powder Nirma also starts ranting now?
- Then target the humble kaadha of kitchen spices as cause for Mucormycosis. In fact this kaadha could have rather been a tasty soup if some tomatoes, salt and lemon were thrown in! What say?
- Reckless steaming comes next, blame someone else for all the WhatsApp university protocols.
- Random forwards linking it to iron, liquorice, resin gum and everything the emanated from Indian habits.
- Then comes the frontal assault on Aṇu Tailam just because Baba Ramdev is popularising it.
- The cruelest of all was targeting the life saving oxygen itself. Oxygen was delivered by putting such humongous efforts, in an unbelievable scale, within a short timeframe. Yet, the thankless still blamed on assumed contamination leading to fungus. In reality it is no big secret at all that hospitals themselves are a hub of assorted microbes, a Grand Central Station of sorts, and the immune compromised patients can catch any ambient bug.

While studying more on this 'not so well acquainted subject', came across research papers of potent Anti Fungal effects of GoMūtra. It seems so wishful, but what if GoMūtra emerges as the only cure? This is science, backed by research! What if?!! Not only Fungus, what we don't know is those who are saved by steroids may suffer AVN (avascular necrosis) where the inside of bones degenerate and collapse in areas like TMJ, Hip or ankle. Coming soon! blame the twists of Yoga for the imploding bones.

It is just a choice of words that makes it so easy for someone to continuously hammer the term "contamination" while conveniently hiding the cause of susceptibility. But tell me what's not "contaminated"? Air, water, food, thoughts, well everything if we are not tough to resist an onslaught.