

# Why some doctors murder their patients due to subconsciously driven malpractice

Dr. Carolina Diamandis<sup>1</sup>, David Seideman<sup>1</sup>, Fabio Rocha<sup>1</sup>, Lucas Pistorius<sup>1</sup>, Alexander Papadakis<sup>1</sup>, Uri Levi<sup>1</sup>, Ariel Friedman<sup>1</sup>, Marius Lazar<sup>1</sup>, and Martin Gangnon<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Affiliation not available

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## Abstract

The phenomenon of a doctor unknowingly killing a patient due to sociopathic traits is a serious issue that has been reported in the medical field. A sociopath is a person who has a personality disorder characterized by a lack of empathy and remorse, and a tendency to manipulate and exploit others. These traits can be difficult to detect, and a doctor who is unaware of them may unknowingly harm patients. One example of this phenomenon occurred in the case of Dr. Harold Shipman, a British GP who was convicted of murdering 15 of his patients. It was later discovered that he had a history of sociopathic behavior and had been exploiting his position of trust as a doctor to kill his patients. Another example is Dr. Michael Swango, an American physician who was convicted of poisoning several of his patients. He too was found to have sociopathic tendencies and had been using his position as a doctor to harm others. It is important for medical professionals and institutions to be aware of the possibility of sociopathic doctors and to have systems in place to detect and prevent this type of behavior. This includes thorough background checks, regular evaluations of doctors' performance, and encouraging colleagues to report any suspicious behavior. It is also important for the patients to be vigilant and to report any unusual behavior by their doctors. Patients should also seek a second opinion if they have any doubts about the diagnosis or treatment they are receiving. The unimaginable but real danger of a doctor unknowingly killing a patient due to his/her sociopathic traits is a serious issue that can have devastating consequences. It is important for medical professionals and institutions to be aware of this possibility and to have systems in place to detect and prevent this type of behavior.

Student Group Ethics, led by Prof. Dr. Martin Gangnon, published by Dr. Carolina Diamandis  
Supporting authors: David Seideman, Fabio Rocha, Lucas Pistorius, Alexander Papadakis, Uri Levi, Ariel Friedman, Marius Lazar  
Correspondence via [martin.gangnon@juc-edu.org](mailto:martin.gangnon@juc-edu.org)  
Supported by Professor Jonathan Herzog, Ph.D. and his team of faculty II.

## *Ethics in Medicine*

# **Why some doctors murder their patients due to subconsciously driven malpractice**

### **Abstract**

The phenomenon of a doctor unknowingly killing a patient due to sociopathic traits is a serious issue that has been reported in the medical field. A sociopath is a person who has a personality disorder characterized by a lack of empathy and remorse, and a tendency to manipulate and exploit others. These traits can be difficult to detect, and a doctor who is unaware of them may unknowingly harm patients. One example of this phenomenon occurred in the case of Dr. Harold Shipman, a British GP who was convicted of murdering 15 of his patients. It was later discovered that he had a history of sociopathic behavior and had been exploiting his position of trust as a doctor to kill his patients. Another example is Dr. Michael Swango, an American physician who was convicted of poisoning several of his patients. He too was found to have sociopathic tendencies and had been using his position as a doctor to harm others. It is important for medical professionals and institutions to be aware of the possibility of sociopathic doctors and to have systems in place to detect and prevent this type of behavior. This includes thorough background checks, regular evaluations of doctors' performance, and encouraging colleagues to report any suspicious behavior. It is also important for the patients to be vigilant and to report any unusual behavior by their doctors. Patients should also seek a second opinion if they have any doubts about the diagnosis or treatment they are receiving. The unimaginable but real danger of a doctor unknowingly killing a patient due to his/her sociopathic traits is a serious issue that can have devastating consequences. It is important for medical professionals and institutions to be aware of this possibility and to have systems in place to detect and prevent this type of behavior.

## Sociopathy

Antisocial personality traits or disorder, also well-known as 'sociopathy', is a mental health condition characterized by a lack of adequate feeling, remorse, and a tendency to manipulate and exploit or cause them harm. While the term sociopathy is often used to describe individuals who are violent or criminal, this is not always the case. In fact, sociopaths are often highly functional individuals and esteemed members of the society who are very well able to lead successful lives while masking their true dark nature. One of the defining characteristics of sociopathy is a lack of empathy, which means that sociopaths are unable to understand or care about the feelings of others. This allows them to manipulate and exploit others without hesitation. Highly functional sociopaths are often able to use their charm and intelligence to gain the trust of others, making it difficult for people to recognize their highly dangerous subconscious thought patterns.

Highly functional sociopaths are often able to succeed in the business world as well as in clinical medicine, and in high positions in the justice system, the government, in law enforcement, and in other high-powered positions. They can be charismatic leaders, who are able to rally others to their cause. They can be successful entrepreneurs, who are able to outsmart their competitors and also be talented 'actors', who have the deep-seated talent to manipulate others. However, despite their success, the actions of highly functional sociopaths can have serious consequences for those around them. They may use their power to exploit and manipulate others, often leaving a trail of broken relationships and ruined lives in their wake. They may

lack the ability to maintain healthy relationships, or have a tendency to hurt people emotionally or physically. It is important to note that sociopathy is a serious mental health condition and it should be diagnosed and treated by a qualified professional. The problem is that it is hardly ever diagnosed in real life as sociopaths have coping techniques with which they can effectively hide their true nature, if they are aware of it themselves.

About 60% of all mild to moderate sociopaths are not even aware of their often highly dangerous condition themselves. However, by far not every individual who exhibits sociopathic traits is a full-blown sociopath, and not all sociopaths are highly functional. However, their total lack of true empathy often allows them to gain positions with a high prestige, influence and different types of power over other people. Additionally, sociopathy is not a disorder that can be cured, and many sociopaths are not even aware of their highly dangerous character traits as was mentioned before.

Nevertheless, sociopathy is an extremely serious mental health condition that can especially go undetected in highly functional individuals. These people are often able to succeed in the business world, in the government, in law enforcement, and in other high-powered positions like that of a physician. However, despite their success, the actions of highly functional sociopaths can have serious consequences for those who trust them, and all individuals under their influence. It is important for third parties to be aware of the signs of sociopathy and to seek help if they suspect that they or someone they know

may be struggling with this condition or is a victim of a sociopath.<sup>1,2,6,21,30</sup>

## **Antisocial behavior and common comorbidities**

Sociopaths rarely show antisocial traits only. Normally they have quite regularly further very severe comorbidities with malignant narcissism and sadism being the most common ones. All three, sociopathy, narcissism and social (not sexual) sadism are different personality disorders, but they share a long list of striking similarities. These mental conditions are characterized by a lack of empathy and a tendency to manipulate and exploit others, making it difficult for people to recognize the true nature of the affected, dangerous individuals. In addition, sociopathy, narcissism and non-sexual sadism are very often seen as a bundle in high-functioning individuals who are easily to be found in high-powered jobs. It is what can be called natural habitat.<sup>1,2,6,7,8,12</sup>

## **Charming sociopaths**

What makes things worse, the most vicious sociopaths are often most able to charm and manipulate others to get what they want, but they lack the ability to form healthy relationships and are often described as “cold-hearted” by those who have had known them long enough. Sociopaths may engage in white-collar crimes or, if less intelligent, in violent behavior, but this is not always the case. Some sociopaths are able to lead successful lives while masking their true nature, a fact which does not make them less dangerous. Narcissism, on the other hand, is a personality disorder characterized by an inflated sense of self-importance, a need for admiration, and a lack of empathy. Narcissists are

often preoccupied with power, success, and their own image, and they may exploit and manipulate others to achieve their goals. They often have a grandiose sense of self-worth, and they may be excessively sensitive to criticism. While sociopathy and narcissism are distinct disorders, they often overlap in many affected individuals. Most sociopathic narcissists display characteristics of both disorders, such as a lack of empathy, a tendency to manipulate and exploit others, and a need for admiration and power.

It is important to note that sociopathy and narcissism are serious mental health conditions that should be diagnosed by a qualified professional. Both disorders can be treated with therapy, medication, and other forms of support. However, hardly any sociopath will ever ask to get treatment; they are happy with what they are because it makes them more successful in their jobs than their normal colleagues. Highly functional sociopaths are able to mask their highly toxic traits and function very successfully in society, often in high-stress or high-power positions. Therefore, these individuals may be drawn to jobs with a top-down setting, such as teachers, top-managers, and physicians, et cetera.<sup>1,2,4,7,21,28,30</sup>

## **The natural habitat or sociopaths**

One reason why sociopaths are found in very specific professions is that these jobs often involve a great deal of power and control over others. Sociopaths are known for their desire for power and control, and may find fulfillment in positions where they have authority over others. For example, a teacher may have control over a classroom of students, while a top-manager may have control over a team of employees. Another reason is that these jobs often involve

high stress and situations above average pressure. Sociopaths may thrive under such conditions, as they tend to be highly confident and self-assured, quite fearless and may not be affected by the stress and pressure that would affect normal people. For example, a highly specialized physician may have to make life-or-death decisions on a regular basis, while a top-manager may have to make difficult decisions that could impact the success of a company. In sociopaths this does not cause anxiety or negative stress but a release of dopamine and other signaling molecules that are connected with joy and a deep seated feeling of pleasure. Lastly, these jobs often require a high level of intelligence and expertise, which sociopaths may possess because they are rather soon promoted into important positions by naive individuals who confuse their ruthlessness, lack of true empathy and pseudo-agreeable façade with authentic character traits. For a layman it can be highly difficult to impossible to reliably distinguish between true good and healthy character traits and the hollow façade of a sociopath. In most of the cases the sociopath will get promoted because he/she has no issues with using subtle dirty tricks in order to get what they want. Due to their strategically used charm sociopath are often well connected and experience a lot of support of naive and benevolent supporters. That is why these charming but very dangerous and very sick individuals are often found to be faster in regard to climbing up into positions that are normally achieved by normal individuals later in life.<sup>1-30</sup>

## **Honorable murderers**

Research results suggest that there may be a significantly higher than average

number of functional sociopaths and sadists in the field of surgery and cardiology. This is likely due to a combination of factors unique to these professions.<sup>31</sup>

First, surgery and cardiology require a high level of precision and attention to detail. Sociopaths are known for their ability to focus intently on a task and not be easily distracted, making them well-suited for these types of jobs. They may also possess a high degree of intelligence and expertise, which is essential for success in these fields.

Second, surgery and cardiology often involve high-stress situations. Sociopaths tend to be highly confident and self-assured, and may not be affected by the stress and pressure that would affect others. This allows them to make quick and accurate decisions, even in high-stress scenarios, and are often admired or praised for these 'talents'.

Third, surgery and cardiology involve life-or-death decisions. Sociopaths are known for their lack of empathy, their love for playing with other people's fate and live. Facts which may make them less affected by the emotional weight of these decisions. They may also be less likely to experience the guilt or remorse that would affect an individual who is more empathetic.

Lastly, these jobs often require a great deal of power and control. Sociopaths are known for their extreme desire for power and control, and may find fulfillment, joy and exhibit a deeply seated intrinsic motivation to act in a way that allows them to be admired by naive colleagues or third parties like their patients. They may also enjoy the feeling of being in control in high-stress situations. It is worth noting that these

traits that may make a sociopath successful in surgery and cardiology may also be detrimental to their patients, as they may most often prioritize achieving success over empathy and true care for the patient. It is important for healthcare professionals to be aware of this potential issue and take steps to mitigate any negative effects. This is likely due to a combination of factors unique to these professions, such as the need for precision, expertise, ability to handle high-stress situations, ability to make life-or-death decisions, and desire for power and control. It is important for healthcare professionals to be aware of this potential issue and take steps to mitigate any negative effects.

Sociopathic physicians, also known as medical sociopaths, are individuals who possess characteristics of sociopathy are able to mask these traits with great talent while functioning successfully in the medical field. These highly dangerous doctors may even not be aware of their passive-aggressive behavior and may unconsciously harm or kill their patients without realizing it. One reason for this is that sociopaths lack empathy, which is the ability to understand and share the feelings of others. Without empathy, a sociopathic physician may not be able to understand the impact of their actions on their patients. They may not fully grasp the severity of the harm they are causing and may not feel remorse or guilt for their actions.<sup>6,7,8,31</sup>

Another reason is that sociopaths are known for their ability to manipulate and deceive others. They may be able to present a professional and empathetic façade to their colleagues and patients, while secretly harboring dark intentions and emotions. In many cases they are even proud of their social skills as malignant they may be. These people are

addicted by a desire to be liked and, of course, have a permanent desire for power and control, even when they are not (fully) aware of the extent to which they are using their patients for their own gain. So, sociopaths may be driven by subconscious hate and damaging behavior. They may not be aware of these feelings and may not realize that their actions are harmful. This can make it difficult for others to detect their behavior and intervene before it results in malpractice.

Furthermore, the medical profession often requires making life-or-death decisions, which can be emotionally and morally a burden too high for most people. However, a true sociopathic physician may not have the same emotional response, and may not be aware of the gravity of the decisions they are making. They enjoy the power over the patient, which can easily lead to malpractice and harmful actions. However, it is important to note that not all doctors who are guilty of malpractice are sociopaths, and that it is not a healthy or sustainable way to practice medicine. Nevertheless, it is crucial for healthcare professionals and supervisors to be aware of this potential issue and take steps to mitigate any negative effects. This can include training on recognizing sociopathic behavior, as well as providing support and resources for physicians who may be struggling with these issues. Sociopathic physicians may not be aware of their highly dangerous passive-aggressive behavior and may unconsciously harm or murder their patients without realizing it. This can be due to their lack of empathy, ability to manipulate and deceive others, subconscious hate and damaging behavior, and the nature of the medical profession that requires making life-or-death decisions.<sup>1,6,27,30</sup>

## Small actions with difficult consequences

Sociopathic physicians may prioritize their own interests over those of their patients, leading to misdiagnoses, improper treatments, and even surgical errors. They may also falsify medical records, exaggerate or neglect serious symptoms, sometimes they prescribe unnecessary medications or risky treatments. Another aspect is the excessive potential for emotional and psychological harm to patients under the cover of 'necessary' medical tests, treatments etc.

Sociopathic physicians may manipulate and exploit their patients, causing them to doubt their own mental and physical health. They may also abuse their power to satisfy their own needs, may they be sadistic in nature, hate, envy, or many other socially unacceptable desires and urges. This constellation can also be problematic for many other healthcare professionals. Sociopathic physicians may also use their charm, intelligence and manipulation skills to exploit and control their colleagues, creating a toxic work environment. They may also be more likely to engage in dishonest or illegal practices, leading to legal and ethical issues for the entire healthcare facility.

It is important for patients to be aware of the potential dangers of sociopathic physicians and to take steps to protect themselves. This includes being vigilant for red flags such as a lack of empathy or remorse, and seeking a second opinion if they have any doubts about their physician's diagnosis or treatment plan. Patients should also talk openly about odd incidents, treatment proposals, or the feeling that a specific physician is not authentically in touch with their

case. These patient should report any suspicions of professional misconduct to the appropriate authorities, and be aware of their rights as patients.

A common danger in sociopathic sadism is neglect, where sociopathic physicians may ignore their patients' well-being and not providing adequate or timely care, not following up on test results or treatments and not showing any concern for the patient's suffering.

Whenever a sadistic physician has power over a seriously ill patient, the consequences can be devastating. The sadistic sociopath may use his/her position of power to inflict harm or suffering on the patient for their own pleasure or enjoyment.

One way in which a sadistic physician may harm a seriously ill patient is through medical malpractice. They may intentionally misdiagnose or mistreat the patient, prolonging their suffering or even causing death. They may also falsify medical records or exaggerate symptoms to prolong the patient's illness and suffering. Another way in which such physicians may harm a seriously ill patient is through emotional abuse. They may manipulate and exploit the patient, causing them to doubt their own mental and physical health, and enjoy the power they hold over the patient. They may also neglect the patient's well-being, by not providing adequate or timely care, not following up on test results or treatments, and not showing any concern for the patient's suffering

This can end in murder by neglect and/or malpractice.

In this type of scenario, the patient's physical and mental well-being are at risk, as well as their trust in the healthcare system. They may not receive

the appropriate care or treatment and may suffer even more than before. It is crucial for patients and their loved ones to be aware of the potential dangers of sociopathic physicians and to take steps to protect themselves.

This includes being vigilant for red flags such as a lack of true empathy or remorse, and seeking a second opinion if they have any doubts about their physician's diagnosis or treatment plan.<sup>2,6,7,8,21</sup>

## **Sadism in healthcare**

It is possible for sadistic sociopathic physicians to be not aware of their anti-social traits, as individuals with antisocial personality disorder (ASPD) may not recognize or understand the negative impact of their actions on others. They may not see their behavior as problematic and may lack empathy or remorse.

Additionally, sociopathic and sadistic individuals may be skilled at hiding their true personalities and can be very charismatic and charming, which can fool others, including their colleagues and patients, into thinking that they are caring and empathetic individuals. They may also justify their behavior as a means to an end, such as getting what they want or gaining power over others.

The medical profession also has a culture of authority and power, where physicians are often seen as experts and their decisions are not questioned, which can create an environment where sociopathic and sadistic physicians can easily exploit.

The high-stress environment of the medical profession, where long working hours, dealing with life and death

situations, and a lack of support can lead to burnout and compassion fatigue, which can make it difficult for physicians to be aware of their own behavior and its impact on others.

While it is easily possible for sadistic sociopathic physicians to be not aware of their anti-social traits, it is important for patients, colleagues and healthcare organizations to be vigilant and report any suspicious behavior or actions to the appropriate authorities. What is even more, patients can unintentionally pave the way for a sadistic physician to harm them in a variety of ways. One of them is by placing trust in a physician without taking the necessary precautions to ensure that they are a reputable and trustworthy professional. Patients may also be swayed by a physician's charm and charisma, and may not be aware of red flags such as a lack of real empathy or remorse.

Another important highly important aspect is that sociopathic behavior can be insidious and subtle. It may not be immediately recognizable as abuse, but instead may manifest as manipulation, exploitation, or a lack of empathy. It may also be excused or minimized as a symptom of the physician's stress or burnout. This can make it difficult for patients and colleagues to recognize the behavior as toxic. A very common way in which patients make it easy for a sadistic physician to harm them is by not being aware of their own rights as patients. Patients may not know what to expect from their physician or may not understand the treatments they are receiving, which can make it difficult for them to question or challenge a physician's decisions.

Additionally, patients may also be vulnerable due to their serious illness, which can make them more susceptible



to manipulation and exploitation by a sadistic physician.

Unfortunately, especially desperate patients are normally more inclined to accept treatments or procedures that are not necessary, or to give in to a physician's demands or requests. Patients may also be reluctant to speak up or to report any suspicious behavior or misconduct, due to fear of retribution or of being labeled as difficult patients. Patients are often afraid and anxious, especially when they have to see a certain specialist for whatever reasons (e.g. health plans offered by insurances, living in rural areas, a understaffed health system). This is like a freeway without any speed limit and an open gates for doctors with sociopathic, narcissistic, and/or sadistic traits.

One way in which sociopaths hide their vicious intentions is by presenting themselves as likable and trustworthy individuals. They may be very skilled at reading others and adapting their behavior to fit their audience. They may appear friendly, too empathetic to be true, and can be very convincing in their act.

Another way in which sociopaths hide their dark sadistic and vicious intentions is by manipulating and exploiting others. They may use flattery, charm, and manipulation to get what they want and to gain power over others. They may also use lies and deceit to gain trust and control over others. They may be adept at making others believe that they have their best interests at heart while they are actually exploiting them.<sup>11-27</sup>

What patients should do in case they feel that they have become a victim:

1. Seek a second opinion: If a patient suspects that their physician is sociopathic, sadistic, narcissistic, or sadistic, it is important for them to seek a second opinion from another trustworthy healthcare professional. This can help to largely confirm or disprove their suspicions and provide them with the information they need to make informed decisions about their health.
2. Report the behavior: Patients should report any suspicious behavior or misconduct to the appropriate authorities, such as the state medical board or the hospital's administration. This will help to protect other patients from falling victim to the same physician and may lead to disciplinary action against the physician.
3. Document the evidence: If a patient has evidence of the physician's behavior, such as medical records, emails or recordings, they should keep them safe, as they may be used as evidence in any investigation or legal proceedings.
4. Seek legal advice: Patients who have been become victims of a sociopathic, narcissistic, or sadistic physician may have legal recourse. They should seek advice from a lawyer experienced in medical malpractice to understand their rights and options.
5. Take care of yourself: It's important for patients to take care of themselves emotionally and physically after experiencing abuse from a healthcare professional. They should seek counseling and support from family, friends or professional support groups to help them heal and cope with the trauma. Taking care of yourself is

crucial for recovery and to move forward.

Passive-aggressive murder by physicians against their patients due to wrong treatments, sloppy diagnostic processes, skipping important test, plain neglect, lies, and subconsciously-driven lethal inactivity is a serious and concerning issue. Since everybody can end up as a patient many people have a tendency to ignore that situations are very real and very common, in which their physician intentionally or unintentionally causes harm to patients through neglect or a lack of action. This can include all factors mentioned before, from failing to provide appropriate medical care or treatment, ignoring or dismissing symptoms, or refusing to take action in response to a patient's deteriorating condition, even despite being asked about it directly. Sadists, sociopaths and malignant narcissists are the most convincing liars the world has ever seen, and the medical field is one of their most preferred habitats.

This type of behavior is often driven by subconscious motives such as feelings of anger, resentment, or frustration towards the patient, or a desire for power and control over them. In some cases, the physician may be suffering from a personality disorder such as sociopathy, which can make them incapable of empathizing with their patients and more likely to act in a harmful way towards them.

Passive-aggressive murder can have severe consequences for patients, including severe injury, disability, and death. It can also have a significant impact on the patient's family and loved ones, who may suffer emotional trauma as a result of the physician's actions.<sup>1-30</sup>

## **Subconsciously driven hate crimes against patients**

When a physician subconsciously holds feelings of envy or hate (including racism and antisemitism) towards one or a group of patients, it can lead to a number of unimaginably horrendous consequences. One of the most significant risks is that the physician may not provide the patient with the same level of care and attention as they would to other patients. This can also result in severe misdiagnoses, delayed or wrong treatment, neglect, and ultimately, death.

The subconscious mechanisms that may come into play in such a situation include projection, transference, and countertransference. Projection is the act of attributing one's own thoughts, feelings, or motives to another person. In the case of a physician, this might manifest as accusing the patient of being difficult or uncooperative when the physician themselves is feeling resentful or unapproachable. Transference is the redirection of feelings from one person to another, and countertransference is the redirection of feelings from a patient to a therapist or physician. In this situation, the physician might transfer feelings of resentment or envy towards a patient and treat them differently as a result. Racism, homophobia, certain dogmas of morality, and antisemitism are way more common in medicine than one wants to believe. It is, without the shadow of a doubt, a leading cause of unnecessary suffering of many patients. When a doctor or nurse holds such views, they unconsciously stereotype or discriminate against patients based on who are as human beings. This can lead to outcomes of catastrophic proportions, and is not uncommon by no means.

For example, a physician who holds hidden racist attitudes towards colored patients may be less likely to take their complaints or symptoms seriously, or may misdiagnose them because of a lack of understanding of the patient's health disparities. Similarly, a physician who holds antisemitic attitudes towards Jewish patients may be more likely to stereotype them as wealthy or privileged, and may not take into account the unique health needs and concerns of this patient population. Additionally, racism and antisemitism can also play a role in the way that physicians interact with patients, leading to microaggressions, dismissive or disrespectful language, or lack of culturally competent care. It is important to note that racism and antisemitism can be subtle and unconscious, and may not always be recognized by the physician themselves.

Racist and antisemitic feelings can be very deeply ingrained in a person's subconscious mind, and may not always be recognized or acknowledged by the individual themselves. This can lead to a phenomenon known as "implicit bias," where a person may act in ways that are discriminatory or harmful towards certain groups of people, without being fully aware that they are doing so.

In the case of a physician, implicit bias may manifest in a number of ways, including:

- Making assumptions about a patient's health or behavior based on their race or ethnicity
- Failing to consider the unique cultural and medical needs of a patient
- Not taking a patient's complaints or symptoms as seriously as they would for other patients

- Using dismissive or disrespectful language or making insensitive or offensive comments
- Providing substandard care or neglecting a patient's needs

Passive-aggressive behavior is a type of behavior where a person may indirectly or subtly show hostility, rather than expressing it openly. Passive-aggressive behavior can be a way that implicit bias expresses itself. For example, a physician who holds racist attitudes towards a patient may not speak to them directly, or may avoid eye contact, or may not take their complaints seriously.

It is important to note that implicit bias is not limited to individuals who hold overtly racist or antisemitic attitudes. Implicit bias can be present in anyone, regardless of their conscious beliefs or intentions. It is a frequent result of largely unconscious mind processing information and making judgments based on past experiences, societal messages, and cultural norms. Therefore, it is crucial that individuals, especially healthcare providers, are aware of the potential for implicit bias and take steps to counteract it. When a doctor holds subconscious hate, racism, homophobia, or antisemitism, it can lead to what is known as either "murder through negligence" or "murder by malpractice". This type of behavior can manifest itself in a number of ways, including:

A physician who holds subconscious hate or bias towards a patient may not provide the same level of care and attention as they would to other patients, which can lead to delayed or incorrect diagnosis and treatment. This can worsen the patient's condition and make it more difficult to treat, ultimately leading to serious health consequences or even death.

Subconsciously racist or hate driven doctors may fail to refer the victim (his patient) to other specialists or order necessary diagnostic tests. This can lead to misleading diagnoses, delayed and/or wrong treatments, which can worsen the patient's condition and make it more difficult to treat correctly at a later stage; ultimately leading to serious health consequences or even death.

Such a physician, a person who holds subconscious hate or bias towards a patient may neglect his/her needs and not provide the appropriate care. This can include failing to follow up with a patient after a procedure, or not providing them with the necessary or correct medication or treatment. What is more, such a physician with hate or bias towards a patient may not have a good rapport with them, which may make the patient less likely to adhere to treatment plans or follow medical advice. This can also lead to poor health outcomes and ultimately carry the real risks of bad treatment outcomes or death of the patient.

It is very important to note that these consequences don't happen overnight, and are quite often the result of the accumulation of these negative attitudes, actions, and behaviors over time. It can also be especially difficult for a patient to address issues of implicit bias or subconscious hate when the physician has a good reputation or is highly specialized, as changing doctors may not be an easy solution. Some reasons for this include:

- Lack of trust: Many patients may have a hard time believing that a doctor who has a good reputation or is highly specialized could have biases or hate against them. These patients may not trust their own

perceptions or may feel that they are being overly sensitive. This can make it difficult for them to speak up and raise concerns.

- Fear of retaliation: Patients may be afraid that if they speak up about their concerns, they may be retaliated against by the physician or the healthcare system. They may be worried about being labeled as "difficult patients" or being denied future care.
- Limited options: In some cases, a highly specialized physician may be one of the few available in the area, making it difficult to find a replacement. Additionally, patients with chronic or complex medical conditions may not want to start over with a new doctor who may not be as familiar with their case.
- Financial and logistical constraints: Changing doctors can be a difficult and time-consuming process, especially for patients with limited financial resources or mobility. Patients may also be concerned about losing continuity of care or having to start over with a new medical team.
- Power dynamics: In some cases, the physician may hold a position of power over the patient, which can make it difficult for the patient to speak up or to change doctors. This power dynamic can be especially pronounced in cases where the physician is a highly specialized or prominent in their field.

All of these factors can make it difficult for a patient to address issues of implicit bias or subconscious hate, and can lead to feelings of helplessness, frustration, and anxiety. It is of absolute paramount importance for healthcare systems and providers to create a culture which

endorses patients in feeling comfortable when raising concerns, and where these concerns are taken seriously and addressed appropriately. It is especially difficult for a patient to address these issues when the physician has a good reputation or is highly specialized, as changing doctors may not be an easy solution. Patients might even have a hard time believing that their doctor with a good reputation could have biases or subconscious hate, may be afraid of retaliation, may have limited options, or may be constrained by financial and logistical factors. Additionally, the power dynamics between the physician and the patient can make it difficult for the patient to speak up or change doctors. It is important for healthcare systems and providers to create a culture where patients feel comfortable raising concerns and where concerns are taken seriously and addressed appropriately. Without proper recognition and intervention, these biases can lead to significant harm to patients and ultimately, it can lead to death. It is essential to bear in mind that these cases happen more often than we think, and it's essential to keep raising awareness and creating an inclusive healthcare system where all patients receive the care they need and deserve.<sup>1,2,8-31</sup>

## Conclusion

It is of paramount importance to stress that when patients raise concerns about implicit bias, racism, homophobia or antisemitism are affecting a physician's decisions, they may be at risk of being considered paranoid by their colleagues and healthcare authorities despite the fact that they are not delusional. This can make it even more difficult for them to address these issues and seek help

despite the fact that every day patients die due to decisions their doctors made.

The reality is that subtle types of neglect, sadism, and the many various aspects of malpractice can often be extremely hard to notice, and patients may first notice them on an emotional level. However, due to the lack of understanding and awareness about these issues, patients may be met with skepticism or disbelief when they raise concerns.

This can lead to a lack of action being taken by healthcare authorities, and the problematic physician can continue to harm patients without any consequence. It's important to remember that these cases happen more often than we think, and it is important to keep raising awareness and creating an inclusive healthcare system where all patients receive the care they need and deserve.

It's crucial for healthcare providers, colleagues, and authorities to take a patient's concerns seriously, even when they only report an odd feeling in regard to a physician and the way he/she treats patients, colleagues and even their staff. Such 'odd feeling' should always be taken very seriously, no matter how speculative or small they might appear. This is the only way to reduce the risk that patients receive a bad standard of care, become prey of insane healthcare professionals.

## Conflicts of interest

None declared.

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- Luzia Healthcare Society
- Springer
- Riku Honda, Researcher (Tokyo/Japan)
- Jewish University (JUC), Faculty I
- CERN / openAIRE
- Authorea
- European Union

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