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Galen Concepts on the Ars Medica

Ars Medica or techné iatriké constitutes the most powerful historical personification of Medicine conceived in the Greco Roman world. It is also an irrefutable fact that Galen represents the ultimate achievement of medical knowledge and reflective thinking on what is the essence of medicine in this same period. Among the Galen books there are a group, as are the *Ars Medicinalis*, the *Protreptico*, the *De constitutione de artis medicae ad Patrofilum*, dedicated to discuss and determine what is the very essence of medicine.

Medicine is considered as an art, and not only a speculative discipline, it needs to pass from theory to act and in this way constitutes a creative art and also has a telos, a finality, which is the knowledge of man as healthy, as sick and as neutral, but also inside the limits of nature (physis). Then, medicine needs know not only the human body and its functions, but its possibilities for the enhancement of its nature, for the preservation of health and for the treatment and cure of its illnesses. Medicine is a techné, an ars. And these terms implies a theoretical dimension, a practical involvement and the knowledge of why to do this or that,

In this paper, We expose the main Galen concepts on the constitution and characteristics of the Art of Medicine, its Hippocratic inheritance and the symbolic importance of this.

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