

**UNIVERSITY OF BASRA
AL-ZAHRA COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
FIRST STAGE
THIRD LECTURE**

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Unit 5: Medical Practitioners 1

- The doctors in Britain are called medical practitioners. They must have a university degree in medicine and registered in the General Medical Council's list in order to practice. The doctor who treats patients is called a '**clinician**'. The doctor who provides primary care for patients is known as **general practitioner** (GP), or family doctor. GPs usually work in a group practice. Group practices work in building called a **health centre**.
- Note: practice (noun) practise (verb)

Specialists

- Specialist doctors, like paediatricians, generally work in hospitals. The two main branches of medicine are **surgery** and **internal medicine**, and the doctors who practise these branches are called **surgeons** and **physicians**, respectively. In Britain, male surgeons are addressed as Mr and females as Ms.

- If the names of specialties end in –ology, the names of specialists usually end in –ologist. And, if the name of a specialty ends in –ics, the name of the specialist ends in –ician, e.g.
- A cardiologist specializes in diseases of the heart and circulation, or cardiology.
- A geriatrician is a specialist in diseases of elderly patients, or geriatrics.
- Note: There are some exceptions to the rule, e.g. An anaesthetist specializes in anaesthetics.

Choosing a specialty

Jill Mathews has just graduated from medical school and is talking about her future.

'I haven't decided what to **specialize in** yet. I need more experience before I decide, but I'm quite attracted to the idea of paediatrics because I like **working with** children. I'd certainly prefer to work with children than, say, elderly patients – so I don't fancy geriatrics. I was never very **interested in** detailed anatomy, so the **surgical specialties** like neurosurgery don't really appeal. You have to be **good with** your hands, which I don't think is a problem for me – I've **assisted at** operations several times, and I've even done some minor ops by myself – but surgeons have to be able to do the same thing again and again without getting bored, like tying off cut arteries and so on. I don't think that would be a problem for me, but they need to make decisions fast and I'm not too **good at** that. I like to have time to think, which means surgery's probably not right for me.'

Note: The collocation **good with** is followed by a noun – *He's good with children*. The collocation **good at** is followed by the -ing form (gerund) of a verb, or by a noun – *She's good at explaining procedures*. *She's good at explanations*.



5.1 Write sentences to describe the work of the specialist in each branch of medicine. Look at B opposite to help you.

1 dermatology

A dermatologist specializes in diseases of the skin.

2 rheumatology

3 traumatology

4 paediatrics

5 obstetrics

5.2 Complete the table with words from A, B and C opposite and related forms. Put a stress mark in front of the stressed syllable in each word. The first one has been done for you.

Verb	Noun (person)	Noun (activity or thing)
'specialize		
practise		
consult		
assist		
graduate		
qualify		

- 5.3 Find prepositions in C opposite that can be used to make word combinations with the words in the box. Then use the correct forms of the words to complete the sentences.

good interested specialize work

- 1 A pathologist diagnosing disease through examining cells and tissue.
- 2 A paediatrician must enjoy children.
- 3 An oncologist is the diagnosis and treatment of cancer.
- 4 A psychiatrist must be counselling.
- 5 A neurosurgeon must be her hands.

- 5.4 Make word combinations using a word from each box. Two words can be used twice. Look at A, B and C opposite to help you.

consulting
general
group
health
internal
surgical

centre
practice
specialties
medicine
practitioner
rooms

Over to you

Re-read what Dr Jill Mathews says about surgeons in Section C. Make a list of the qualities she thinks are needed to be a good surgeon. Then make a similar list of qualities for another specialty.

If you are a student, which branch of medicine do you think you have the qualities for? If you have already completed your training, why did you choose your particular branch of medicine?