

Improving Healthcare Access and Outcomes Using Decentralized Technologies and Applied Agorism

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1 Rapid Technological Evolution Empowering Individuals

1.1 Decentralized Technologies

music, film industries

energy, etc.

p2p, bittorrent, file sharing, circumventing IP laws

blockchain, bitcoin, circumventing middleman institution

darknet markets

crowd funding, gofundme, medical bills, charity

sharing economy, uber, airbnb, OpenBazaar products and services, platform cooperativism, eliminate middleman

decentralized web, ZeroNet, censorship resistance

1.2 Applied Agorism

Agorism is a philosophy detailing how to create a libertarian society of voluntary exchanges between people developed by Samuel Edward Konkin III and is expounded upon in his various works [1][2][3].

2 Healthcare Monopoly Complicit With Poor Access and Outcomes

2.1 Healthcare Market Distorted by Government Intervention

licensing requirements

products sold constraints

hospital accreditation

drug patents

2.2 Misdiagnosis

[4]

2.3 Disenfranchised Patient Groups

2.3.1 Rare Diseases

CVID

2.3.2 Unusual Disease Presentations

seronegative HIV

2.3.3 Under Studied Diseases

ME/CFS

2.3.4 Emerging Diseases

2.4 Scarcity of Capable Doctors

The developing world has a major shortage of doctors. For example Nigeria has roughly 14% the number of doctors as OECD countries. [5]

vet anecdote

[6]

2.5 Limited Direct Patient Testing, Doctor a Middleman

Doctors are a middleman and serve as a barrier to access testing. Systemic problems exist where seeking alternate opinions does not guarantee improved outcome. Doctors are educated similarly and will have biases prevalent in the population.

Note that the UCSF Viral Diagnostics and Discovery Center is a research laboratory and cannot perform individual patient testing due to federal regulations. We are unable to perform clinical diagnostic testing, and only recommend that patients see their personal physician to discuss available clinical test options.

CLIA certification

[7]

3 Patients Fighting Oppression by Practicing Agorism

3.1 Sharing Information

3.1.1 Existing Platforms

Forums: Phoenix Rising

PatientsLikeMe

Human Diagnosis Project

CrowdMed

3.2 Accessing Information

academic research papers

sci-hub.biz

FindZebra

Enlitic

[8]

3.3 Accessing Testing

online lab test services

walkin lab

personallabs

social engineering

In US, going to states that allow direct patient testing

3.4 Access to Procedures

medical tourism

3.5 Access to Treatment

dallas buyers club, historical examples

foreign online pharmacies

forging prescriptions

kevin carson anecdote

phoenix rising threads

Marijuana has been shown to compete with prescriptions drugs for conditions including chronic pain, depression, anxiety, nausea, and others [9]. It's use for among cancer and HIV patients to alleviate symptoms is well known.

Despite these benefits and the harm reduction when compared to opiates and other prescription drugs, in many states where it is still illegal, patients must break the law to acquire marijuana. Even in states with medical marijuana laws, government regulations can effectively make it impossible to acquire legally. For example, in New York state, a very limited number of medical conditions are allowed. A prescription from a doctor must be acquired, yet only a few hundred doctors in the state have been licensed to give such prescriptions and there is no public directory of doctors to be able to know where to go to get a prescription. Not only that, but the patient must also purchase a license.

Marijuana is a perfect example of decentralized medicine. It can be grown nearly anywhere with relative ease. Yet, as in New York, we see the government centralizing production by only allowing a limited number of producers who must acquire a license from the state which is extremely cost prohibitive. As is all too common, we see government intervention causing extremely limited access and high costs. If government really wanted to help patients, it could fully legalize marijuana and focus on ensuring home test kits and information is available to consumers to ensure that consumers have access to safe products. This is analogous to the abstinence vs. safe sex issue. In this analogy, the government is preaching abstinence by not allowing access to marijuana, yet patients who need it are going to use it anyways.

With regard to safety especially in people with compromised immune systems, there are some precautions that can be taken and room for improvement in making cost effective test kits available. For example, marijuana can be heated in an oven to kill some fungus and bacteria that may exist on the plant [10]. Besides visual and olfactory inspection, there are also lab tests that can be performed to examine the plant for fungus, bacteria, mycotoxins, and other contaminants. In [11], dispensary grade cannabis flowers were examined using PCR DNA analysis and other techniques to look for contaminants.

growing own
darknet markets

4 Future of Agorism Applied to Healthcare

4.1 Sharing Economy Breakthroughs Applied to Healthcare

4.2 Machine Learning to Phase Out Doctors For Diagnosis

4.3 Homebrew Medical Devices Increasing Prevalence

[12]

[13]

<https://openaps.org/outcomes/> OpenAPS [14]

[15] [16] [17]

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