ABSTRACT

Objective: We present a review of published medical diagnosis of the Mona Lisa model, portrayed by Leonardo da Vinci, and now identified as Lisa Gherardini (1479-1542 or 1551). We also question the reliability of such a diagnosis on an individual (who had lived 500 years ago), based on the evidence of a single portrait.

Methods: A literature search on 'Mona Lisa's medical diagnosis was conducted in Pub Med database and 11 relevant documents were retrieved.

Results: A synopsis of published medical diagnosis (since 1959) on Mona Lisa, is presented in a table. Conditions reported include, Bell's palsy related facial paralysis, puffy neck (goiter), hypothyroidism, loss of front teeth, xanthelasma and primary biliary cholangitis. How valid these diagnoses can be? Where are the proper controls for such indications?

Conclusion: We infer that without the benefit of proper controls painted by Leonardo da Vinci around the same period, almost all the medical diagnosis presented currently appears to be flawed.

KEY WORDS

art, face, hypothyroidism, Italy, Leonardo da Vinci, pregnancy,
CONCLUSION

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REFERENCES