

Spa Endo: Choose High Touch over High Tech

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As I watched the stylish retro movie “Down with Love” starring Renee Zellweger and Ewan McGregor, I briefly longed to return to the past. Briefly.

Back to rigid scopes? Teaching heads? The nurse not being able to see during most of the endoscopies and all of the ERCPs?

There was an upside to the past, though.

I ran into SGNA past president Nancy Schlossberg doing her thing at the Olympus booth at this fall’s ACG in Baltimore. Surrounded by the height of technology manifest in the Medusean tangle of scopes, we discussed endonursing of the past.

" I have an old endoscopy nursing guideline from the 80's that advocates not cleaning the endoscope between cases," laughs Nancy Schlossberg RN CGRN, Manager Curriculum Development, Olympus America Inc. Instructions from The Gastroenterology Assistant: A Laboratory Manual, 2nd Edition, 1981 state "Disinfection of endoscopic equipment is desirable, but must be practical in a clinical setting. The long method of disinfection is more time-consuming and may not be applicable between cases in a very busy unit."

"Of course, that's only if the endoscopy nurse was really busy. It would be an unacceptable standard of care today, despite the huge numbers of procedures done by the average endosuite" adds Ms. Schlossberg.

No, I'd say not. But it did save time.

My father advised me, when still in training, to open a ‘fast food’ practice of gastroenterology. Only partly joking, he designed my new practice. “You could lease an old fast food joint with a drive-through window,” he enthused. “Your partners could be a urologist, gynecologist, dentist and ENT. The patients wouldn’t even have to get out of their cars. They could simply roll up to the drive-through window, extend the appropriate orifice out of the window of the vehicle, have it plumbed, then drive themselves on to the managed care check-out window.”

My pop’s name for my practice?

“Orifices-R-Us”.

It makes me shudder to think of the combo selections. And let’s not even discuss the whopper.

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Chesapeake Virginia based gastroenterologist Dr. Patricia Raymond is an author, expert, and consultant, who speaks for hospital systems and medical conventions. Her books, “Don’t Jettison Medicine!” and “Colonoscopy: It’ll Crack u Up”, and your FREE subscription to the re-invigorating Rx For Sanity™ eNews are waiting for you at RxForSanity.com.