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On Smallpox and Measles according to works of the Islamic world in the Middle Ages-Age of Decline-I: *Kitāb al-Mukhtārāt fī al-Ṭibb*

Abstract

Objective: The aim of this study was to analyze the chapters on smallpox and measles in the *Kitāb al-Mukhtārāt fī al-Ṭibb* of Muhadhhab al-dīn b. Hubal al-Baghdādī, one of the most important authors of the Islamic world in the Middle Ages, by translating them into Turkish and introducing them into the Turkish medical history literature.

Materials and Methods: This study analyzed a printed copy of Muhadhhab al-dīn b. Hubal al-Baghdādī's *Kitāb al-Mukhtārāt fī al-Ṭibb* and a manuscript copy in İstanbul, Süleymaniye Manuscript Library, Fatih Collection, No. 3632. The sections of the work on smallpox and measles were translated from Arabic into Turkish by the author of the article and presented in the Results section of the article. In the Discussion section of the article, the information presented in the findings section is compared and evaluated with the information on the subject in the relevant literature of the period.

Results: In the fourth volume of the printed copy of *Kitāb al-Mukhtārāt fī al-Ṭibb* and the fourth volume of the manuscript, there are two chapters (faṣl) on smallpox and measles. One of them is titled "Chapter on smallpox and measles/faṣl fī al-jadarī wa l-ḥaṣba" and the other is titled "The chapter on removing the scars of ulcers, measles and smallpox/faṣl fī qal' āthār al-jadarī wa l-ḥaṣba wa l-qurūḥ".

Conclusion: Al-Baghdādī's writings appear to be in the context of the theory of humoral pathology, the medical paradigm of his time, and are similar to the information contained in the works of his predecessors. In writing these chapters, Ibn Hubel seems to have relied on the relevant chapters in 'Alī b. al-'Abbās al-Majūsī's *Kāmīl al-Ṣinā'a al-Ṭibbiyya* and al-Rāzī's *al-Manṣūrī fī al-Ṭibb* rather than Abū Bakr Muḥammad b. Zakariyyā al-Rāzī's *Kitāb al-Jadarī wa al-Ḥaṣba* and *Kitāb al-Ḥāwī fī al-Ṭibb* and Ibn Sīnā's *Kitāb al-Qānūn fī al-Ṭibb*, where the subject of "smallpox and measles" is discussed in detail. It is noticeable that Ibn Hubel summarized the information in *Kāmīl al-Ṣinā'a al-Ṭibbiyya* in the pre-treatment section and mostly in *al-Manṣūrī fī al-Ṭibb* in the section on treatment, while avoiding detailed etiological explanations.

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