MD perspective: what changed?
How does GDPR affect communication with the patient?

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Disclosure

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I have the following potential conflicts of interest to report:

- [ ] Consulting
- [ ] Employment in industry
- [ ] Stockholder of a healthcare company
- [ ] Owner of a healthcare company
- [ ] Other(s)

- [x] I do not have any potential conflict of interest
The good old times...

....when we were able to exchange documents and findings without any obstacles

Wait, I'll send you the angio and the patient files via Whatsapp...
The good old times...

.... when passwords were still simple and unique

What was the stupid password for the signature of this ECRF database? "PASSWORD". Fits.
The good old times...

....when we were allowed to talk to our family about our work

Hello honeybunny,
Imagine, I have just operated on our neighbor. Just went well, I tell you...
The good old times...

....when Balint groups could be held at lunch

I have just revascularized the lower leg of Ms. Schmidt from the pharmacy. I tell you, that was a massacre...

And I've just recanalized our mayor's calcified SFA: My God, he really should stop smoking!!
The old times...

....are over
My way to GDPR

2013-2018:

- Amazon knows my wishes better than myself
- I can look at the privacy of my colleagues on Facebook.
- The nurses make fun of my whatsapp image
My way to GDPR

2017:

• Seems that EU is going to do something about privacy
My way to GDPR

25th May 2018

• GDPR Implementation date:

Almost all clinical trials are stopped because sponsors and CROs want “to comply with the new regulations”
My way to GDPR

June 2018

CRO wants me to reconsent all 250 patients in a stent registry „due to the new regulations“
All employees must undergo online compulsory training on data protection.
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Online training requires registration with an external publisher. The publisher asks for my personal data when registering and would like to send me regular advertising. The Training takes about 2 boring hours and results in a PDF-certificate.
Hospital administration employs a new „data protection officer“
she is a former web designer and my colleagues tell me that you can read everything about her on her homepage
My way to GDPR

August 2018

Data protection officer finds a note with patient name in the ladies' room

Serious data protection emergency event!
My way to GDPR

August 2018

Serious data protection emergency data breach event!

Immediate emergency intervention required by hospital administration!
Local government has to be informed about serious data breach

Corrective actions are implemented:
Retraining of all employees (including the male)
My way to GDPR

August 2018

Still many clinical trials on hold
Thinking about having my study nurses retrain to data protection officers
My way to GDPR

August 2018

My passwords for the electronic patient files are not longer working due to “data safety reasons”
Cathlab passwords for the electronic patient files are not longer working due to “data safety reasons”
My way to GDPR

September 2018

My catheter procedures are regularly delayed because all patients must now read and sign up to 20 pages of privacy forms upon admission.
Requesting reports and catheter findings from referring hospitals in the short term is becoming difficult.

This is the new privacy-compliant automatic document retrieval service of the university hospital. Unfortunately, you are calling outside office hours. Please submit your request in writing with the patient's signed consent form and provide a detailed written justification for your request for data. After thorough examination, we can handle your concerns during normal office hours....
My way to GDPR

September 2018

My study nurses must send cryptic privacy information to all patients. They have to sign and date for each patient that they have done this. I have to sign and date that I have assigned them. Patients must sign and date that they have read and understood the information. Because nobody does that, the study nurses have to sign and date that they have called the patients three times. I have to sign and date that I have asked the study nurses to do so. I have to sign and date a corrective action plan because the few patients who had sent back the document did not properly sign and date, etc., etc.....
My way to GDPR

October 2018

Group IT-accesses in cathlab are no longer working. In order to get an insight into the patient's file, I have to interrupt the catheter procedure, or give the catheter nurse my private access.
My way to GDPR
2019
The madness continues...
My way to GDPR

Who invented this data protection nonsense?

The stupid government? The evil EU?
My way to GDPR

No, it was him:

The Hippocratic Oath

′Α δ′ ἂν ἐν θεραπείᾳ ἢ ἴδω, ἢ ἀκούσω, ἢ καὶ ἂνευ θεραπηίης κατὰ βίον ἀνθρώπων, ἃ μὴ χρή ποτε ἐκλαλέεσθαι ἐξω, σιγήσομαι, ἄῤῥητα ἡγεύμενος εἶναι τὰ τοιαῦτα.

Whatsoever I shall see or hear in the course of my profession, as well as outside my profession in my intercourse with men, if it be what should not be published abroad, I will never divulge, holding such things to be holy secrets.
Protecting patient data has always been one of the basic duties of the medical profession.
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Despite all bureaucratic excesses, GDPR can help us to become more aware of this again.
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