Introduction
The Victorian era brought much new advancement to the medical world, but still held many underdeveloped and unsafe medical practices. Great strides were made during this period in hospital sanitation, treatment of common communicable diseases, and anesthesia and surgery. Furthermore, physician and surgeon education transitioned to a more formalized structure.

Methods
A review of the literature was performed including historical commentaries as well as primary sources such as medical journal articles from that age.

Results
The transition to a more sanitary environment enabled patients to undergo treatment and recovery with less risk of becoming sick or dying in the hospital. During this time great improvement was made in the area of communicable disease treatment. Household and public sanitation were greatly inadequate during the Victorian era. The development of new drugs made many of these diseases curable. The role of the physician became professionalized in Victorian England. The Victorian era was a time of transition from unqualified to professionalized doctors. It was progressing to a more formal training and education of physicians. Doctors were usually educated and then trained in an internship before becoming able to practice medicine themselves. This professionalization resulted in superior patient care and increased chances for successful treatment. The surgical procedures of Victorian medicine were gradually improving, but nevertheless entailed many hazards. The development of chloroform and other anesthetics allowed for the implementation of more advanced surgical treatments by giving the doctor the ability to put the patient to sleep or reduce pain. Many surgical tools were developed that allowed for complicated procedures to be performed, although they were often unsterile and caused more harm to the patient.

Conclusions
The Victorian era of medicine was a transition from inferior and dangerous practices to more developed and safe procedures, which had an overall beneficial effect on the Victorian society.

Learning Objectives
To understand the changes in medical care during the Victorian era in England.

To understand the advancements in medical and surgical education made in Victorian England.

References


