

Assessing Clinical Reasoning

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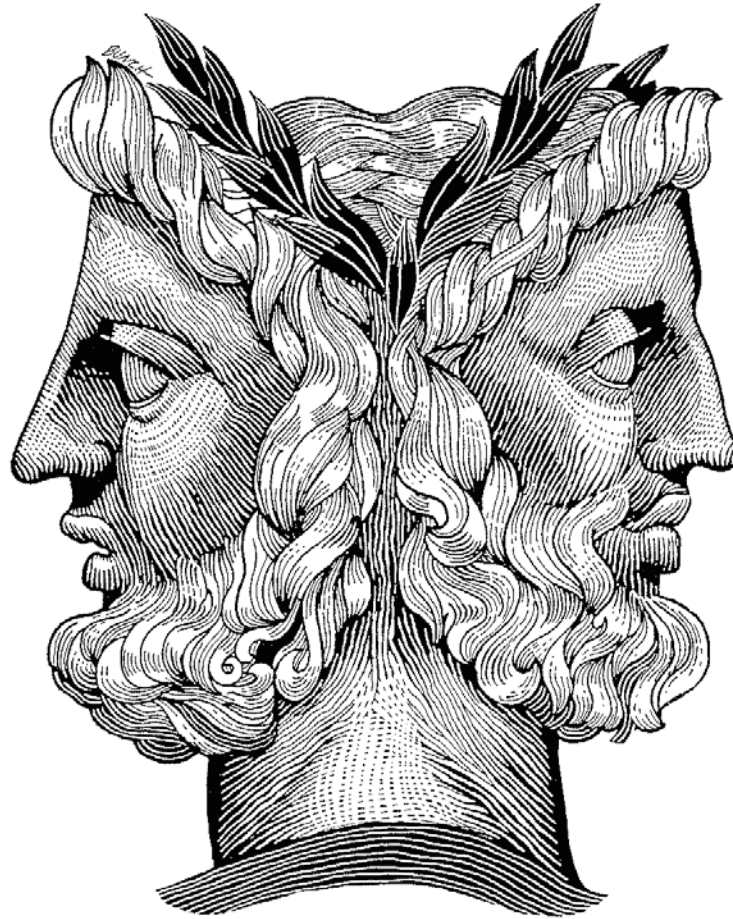
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Defining Clinical Reasoning

- You can't measure what you can't define
- No shortage of definitions of clinical reasoning
- Too complex to measure all parts of it, so need to focus on one aspect

The Two Faces of Clinical Reasoning

Diagnosis



Therapy

Diagnostic Reasoning

- Categorization task
- Given this information, what is the best diagnosis
- “Correct” answer
- Time-delimited
- Lends itself to self-contained cases or stimuli

Therapeutic Reasoning

- Decision analytic approaches
 - Weighting probabilities, outcomes, utilities, benefits
 - Normative models
- Little ‘descriptive’ work on how physicians make therapeutic decisions
- Complexity
 - Time, changes in patient response, new information, context, team/social influences, defining the goal, communication
 - Probably is no single cognitive process for therapeutic reasoning

Some Assessment Tools

- Multiple Choice and Extended Matching Questions
- Oral Examinations
- Key Features Tests
- Script Concordance Tests

Some Assessment Tools

- Expert Observations
- Chart Stimulated Recall and Audits
- Simulation (of all varieties)
- Experimental methods (think aloud, concept mapping, semantic differentials, etc.)