

Businessweek

The Dubious Promise of Digital Medicine-

Joseph Chemplavil, M.D. Apr 28, 2009 2:22 AM GMT

It should be a warning for the analogue patients and doctors to watch out for the unintended and unexpected consequences of digital medicine, reminded of what Mark Twain once said, Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint.

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FEEDBACK

Healthy Discourse

Our Cover Story on mismanaged or clueless care hit a nerve

Dr. David Eddy's computer model makes perfect sense in an ideal world with ideal patients, but it may not be powered for "real world" medicine. Physicians practice in a very complicated world. They see patients with varying severities of sickness. And there are other characteristics such as economic, cultural, intellectual, and linguistic barriers and other social factors. Numerous studies with conflicting and contradictory conclusions cast doubt in the minds of clinicians as well as patients. There are many flaws in medical research, compared with other sciences. There will always be a divide between the analog life of the physicians and their patients and the digital age we are in.- *Joseph K. Chemplavil, M.D., Hampton, Va*