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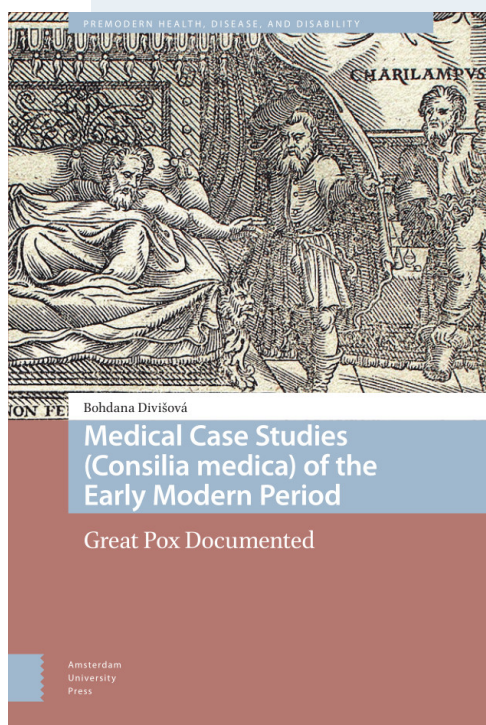
## Medical Case Studies (Consilia medica) of the Early Modern Period

*Great Pox Documented*

*Consilia* played an important role in not only medieval but also early modern professional health literature. A literary '*consilium*' consisted of a written statement of one particular case, including the patient's condition and disease as well as advice concerning medical treatment. In the sixteenth century, *consilia* literature was a common component of the practices of many eminent physicians. This is illustrated through an analysis of *consilia* from twenty-two different collections and anthologies by fifteen selected authors, who represent university professors, personal physicians, and urban physicians from early modern Italy, France, and German-speaking Central Europe. A closer look at nearly 7,000 *consilia* shows how important a link they were within the medical community. A detailed view of *consilia* intended for patients suffering from the 'French disease' reveals details about, for instance, the most common treatments for syphilis – mercury and guaiacum – alongside many other interesting and important details.

### BIOGRAPHY

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