

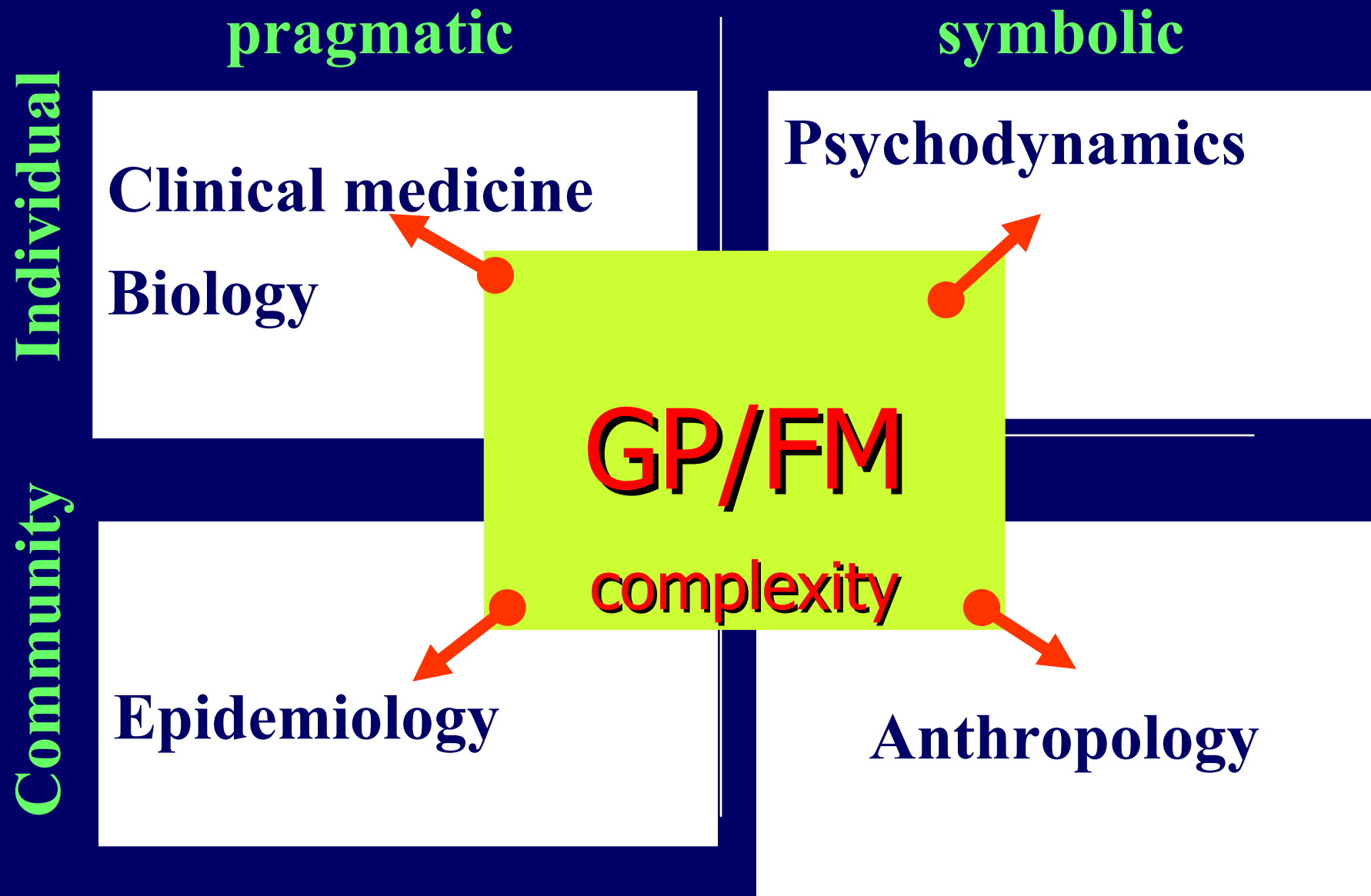
Limits in General Practice/Family medicine

- **Four main domains**
- **Four operational fields**

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MJ / WICC DURHAM / MAY 99

GP/FM Main domains



Be cool

Please forget you are a medical doctor

**The following is more
understandable if you are a patient**

A proposal to include a new concept in the Dictionary of general practice

**Somewhere between
quality and ethics**

Laboratory tests and procedures are usually ordered for the following reasons:

1. Screening
2. In suspicion of disease and to help diagnose disease (case-finding)
3. To follow-up abnormal lab results (repeating tests to monitor disease)
4. For patient reassurance

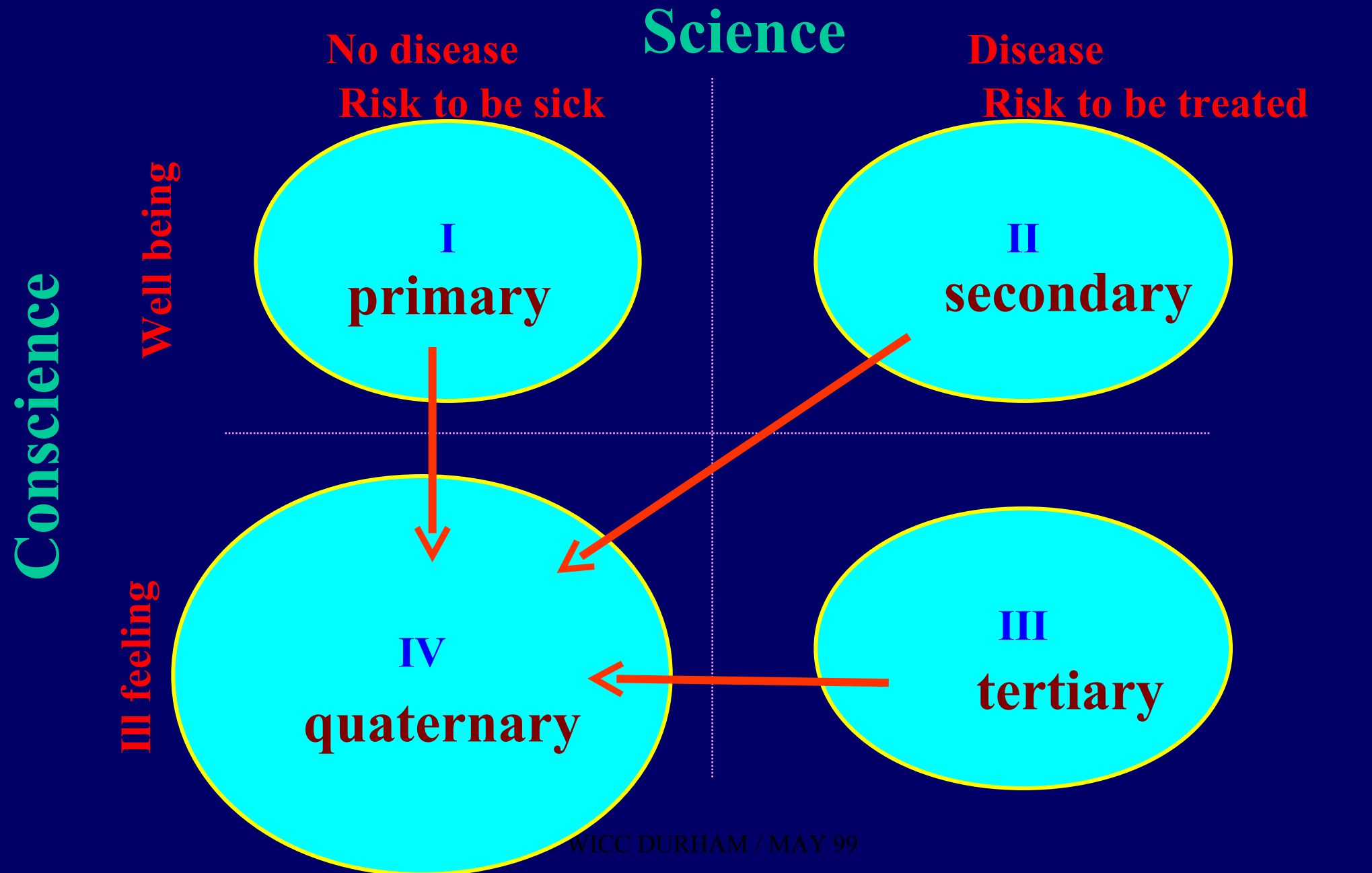
Let us consider the consultation between doctor and patient as an encounter between science and conscience

Unfortunately, the doctor is attracted by diseases while the patient experiences suffering and death

Just for a moment, let us accept a clear cut between no disease and disease and between well being and ill feeling

Four operational fields in GP/FM

Four prevention fields in GP/FM



Four operational fields in GP/FM

Primary prevention

Action taken to avoid or remove the cause of a health problem in an individual or a population before it arises (ie immunization).

Secondary prevention

Action taken to prevent development of a health problem from an early stage in an individual or a population, by shortening its course and duration (ie screening for hypertension).

Quaternary prevention

Action taken to identify patient at risk of overmedicalisation, to protect him from new medical invasion and to suggest him interventions ethically acceptable.

Tertiary prevention

Action taken to reduce the effect and prevalence of a chronic health problem in an individual or a population by minimizing the functional impairment consequent to acute or chronic health problem (ie prevent complications of diabetes)

Laboratory tests and procedures are usually ordered for the following reasons:

II

1. Screening

2. In suspicion of disease and to help diagnose disease (case-finding)

III

3. To follow-up abnormal lab results (repeating tests to monitor disease)

and prevent complications

IV

4. For patient reassurance

↑ and doctor

We would propose the introduction of the concept

QUATERNARY PREVENTION

into the dictionary with this definition

Action taken to identify patient at risk of overmedicalisation, to protect him from new medical invasion and to suggest him interventions ethically acceptable.

⇒ This implies the definition of overmedicalisation

Do we have to prove it ?

**The English are always
degrading truths into facts.**

**When a truth becomes a fact
it loses all its intellectual value**

Oscar Wilde

To see you in Malta !!



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