Illustrating the Unseen:
Analogy and Metaphor in an Ancient Gynecological Text

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Abstract
Analogy and metaphor are powerful aids in communicating complex ideas simply. Science communication, a field of the twenty-first century, is written as a handbook for chaotic and complex research, and it employs analogy and metaphor as means to increase the accessibility of its subject. For example, Soranos describes the three shapes of the placentas with the well-known phrase "blue, red, yellow," which is often translated as "τρία φῶτα"; however, there is a range of possible translations, including "λευκό, παρθένη, κόκκινο". Consequently, a variety of images are presented to the ancient reader. In this aggregate image created through the many meanings delivered, a complete image of the placentas.

With the assistance of artistic rendering, I will examine the analogies presented within Soranos with the following objectives to determine the ways in which Soranos constructs his imagery, and provide insight into the complex nature of these choices. This task must be read within its historical context in order to fully understand Soranos' audience and communication strategy. Many of the metaphors used by Soranos still persist in modern medical terminology, by analyzing Soranos' usage of language for specific and metaphorical meanings can gain a better understanding of how and why medical language is created.