

How to Kill a Gamer (or at least His or Her Character)

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Introduction

- ⌘ Damn it Jim, I'm an engineer not a doctor. Well actually I am a doctor, but not a physician.
- ⌘ Let's make this interactive. I want to hear your ideas and answer your questions.

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Possible Universes

- ⌘ Dungeons – Low tech, medieval (no antibiotics).
- ⌘ Present Day – Current medical treatments available.
- ⌘ Futuristic – Space and other inhospitable environments, advanced medical treatments available.
- ⌘ Magic/Fantasy – If conservation of mass and the laws of thermodynamics don't apply, all bets are off.

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Dungeons

- ⌘ Mechanical trauma (If guns are outlawed, we can always use swords): Weapons and Falls
 - ⌘ Head Injuries
 - ⌘ Chest Injuries
 - ⌘ Abdominal Injuries
 - ⌘ Limb Injuries and Amputations.

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Dungeons - Poisons

- ⌘ Advantages and disadvantages.
- ⌘ Biological (plant, animal and fungal) versus mineral.
- ⌘ Fast (seconds) versus slow (years).
- ⌘ Ingested, injected, inhaled or absorbed.
- ⌘ Detection and delectability.

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Dungeons – Infectious Agents

- ⌘ Viruses, bacteria, fungi versus parasites.
- ⌘ Incubation period and onset of symptoms.
- ⌘ Natural infections.
- ⌘ Intentional infection (advantages and disadvantages).
- ⌘ Transmission.

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Present Day

- ⌘ All the Dungeon dangers, but treatment may be possible.
- ⌘ New Threats
 - ⌘ Radiation
 - ⌘ Electrical
 - ⌘ Enhanced biological and antibiotic resistance
 - ⌘ Extreme toxicity
- ⌘ Real Concerns
 - ⌘ Repetitive motion injuries
 - ⌘ Fitness and obesity

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Futuristic

- ⌘ High altitude and space.
- ⌘ Natural radiation during prolonged space flight will be a big problem.
- ⌘ Temperature extremes.
- ⌘ Technological dependency.
- ⌘ Advanced treatments may be available (cloning, spare organs and transfer of consciousness), but there will probably always be limits.

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Some Resources

- ⌘ eMedicine web site (<http://www.emedicine.com>): Provides technical descriptions of many conditions.
- ⌘ U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<http://www.cdc.gov/>): Provides background and data on many diseases that are currently in the news.

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More Resources

- ⌘ Any good "undergraduate, for majors" biology, anatomy, physiology pathology and medical microbiology books.
- ⌘ A medical dictionary.

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