Giovanni Maria Lancisi Encyclopedia Article

Giovanni Maria Lancisi

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Giovanni Maria Lancisi

1654-1720

Italian physician and epidemiologist who served as personal physician to Pope Clement XI. His research added to the knowledge of syphilis, malaria, plague, contagious fevers, asthma, aneurysm, and heart disease. In *De noxiis paludum effluviis* (On Harmful Emissions from Marshes) (1717), he proposed draining swamps in order to prevent malaria and suggested that mosquitoes might be the transmitters of that disease. His *De subitaneis mortibus* (On Sudden Kinds of Death) (1707) is a classic of cardiology.