
decision maker on the location of the newly founded Al-Mu'tadidi Hospital named after Caliph Al-Mu'tadid (892-902 AD). Rhazes hung pieces of meat in various corners of Baghdad and the place of the meat piece last to decompose or to become rotten was selected as a place for the hospital foundation; he then became the head of its staff. Rhazes was a chemist too; he prepared Alcohol by distillation (of fermented sweet juices, most likely dates) for the first time in history. Latterly, he used Alcohol as antiseptic for wounds. Furthermore, Arabs used the crushed rotten bread for Tonsillitis, thus wittingly or unwittingly taking the credit for introducing antibiotics long before Alexander Fleming.

Surgical Instruments

Arabs invented and perfected **many surgical instruments** illustrated in Albucasis' "**Al Tasrif Liman Ajaza An Al Ta'leef**", Hali Abbas' "**Kamil Al Sina'ah Al Tibbiah or Al Kitab Al Malaki or Liber Regius**", and in Ibn Al Quff's "**Al-Omda Fi Sina'at Al-Jiraha**". These instruments include tools for dissection and cutting, various ligatures were used to secure haemostasis and to help suturing and closure of the wound; they include guitar strands, catgut, linen and silk. Ants jaws were used as a device for suturing intestinal (internal) and skin (external) wounds. Caustic substances and cautery were used for haemostasis, particularly in haemophiliacs. Albucasis described more than 100 surgical instruments which do not appear in extant classical writings and which may therefore be regarded as his own. Among these are the tonsil guillotine, the concealed knife and its case for opening abscesses, catheter, trocar for paracentesis, syringe, lithotrite, vaginal speculum, the true scissors, obstetric forceps that anticipate Chamberlain's, and the use of a kind of plaster casing that anticipates the modern plaster cast.

Catheters were invented by Arabs to serve as tools for drainage in patients with urinary retention. The word catheter is derived from Arabic Catha Tair, bird's quill, which is a hollow tube with attenuated end used initially for writing. Gauze (derived from Arabic Gazza where it was manufactured) and bandages made of various textile materials were used by Arabs for wound dressing as haemostatic (by pressure) and for cleanliness (protection). Occasionally, the bandage was used as a proximal tourniquet in snake bites. Wicks and tube drains were also used in abscess cavities. Leather bulb syringe (from Arabic Zarrag: an injector) was used for rectal enema. Proctoclysis was invented by Avenzoar. Urethral dilators and sounds were also used by Ibn Al Thahabi while Albucasis used lithotrite and metallic bladder syringe (litholapexy). Snares (from Arabic Sinnara: a fish hook) were extensively used for removal of nasal polyps, enlarged tonsils, varicose veins and haemorrhoids. Tracheostomy was first referred to by Rhazes, experimentally applied by Avenzoar on goats, and practically performed by Albucasis on one of his servants successfully. Palliative treatment of oesophageal obstruction by intubation with narrow metallic tubes made of silver was tried first and advocated by Avenzoar. Various glasses and optics were invented by Al Hazen and extensively used in Ophthalmology. The Gypsum (from Arabic Gyps: a powder hardened by water) was first used by Arabs in fractures. Wooden splints were chosen from special trees such as the pomegranate tree.

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