Avenzoar (1092–1162 AD) and Averroes (1126–1198 AD): Andalusian Muslim Physicians

Samad E. J. Golzari · Mir Mousa Mirinejad ·
Abolhassan Kazemi · Majid Khalili ·
Kamyar Ghabili

Published online: 6 July 2012
© Société Internationale de Chirurgie 2012

Dear Editor,

We read with great interest the article of Missori et al. [1] which discussed the origin of the cannula for tracheotomy during the medieval period and Renaissance. As mentioned in the article, scholars of the Islamic Golden Age had a great impact on medicine practiced at the time and later [1].

One of the outstanding medieval Islamic physicians believed to have contributed to the procedure of tracheotomy is Abu Merwan Abd al-Malik ibn Zuhr (1092–1162 AD), an Andalusian Muslim physician better known as Avenzoar in the European literature [1, 2]. Missori and colleagues indicated that Ibn Zuhr was known as Averroes in Latin [1].

We believe, however, that the Latin title Averroes belongs to another Andalusian Muslim polymath, Abu al-Walid Muhammad ibn Ahmad ibn Rushd, or Ibn Rushd (1126–1198 AD) [3]. Thanks to his philosophical influence on Western thought, Ibn Rushd, or Averroes, was a noticeable figure during emergence of the European Renaissance [4]. Apart from his wide interests in physics, astronomy, psychology, jurisprudence, and philosophy,

Averroes owned a medical encyclopedia known as *Kulliyat* or *Colliget* (*The Generalities*), a few treatises on medicine, a collection of Galenic works, and a commentary on Avicenna's the Canon of Medicine [5]. Thus, we suggest that the title "Averroes" be replaced by "Avenzoar" in the article by Missori et al. [1].

Conflict of interest None.

References

1. Missori P, Brunetto GM, Domenicucci M (2012) Origin of the cannula for tracheotomy during the Middle ages and Renaissance. *World J Surg* 36:928–934. doi:10.1007/s00268-012-1435-1
2. Haddad FS (2004) Ibn Zuhr and experimental tracheostomy and tracheotomy. *J Am Coll Surg* 199:665
3. Shoja MM, Tubbs RS (2007) The history of anatomy in Persia. *J Anat* 210:359–378
4. Belen D, Bolay H (2009) Averroës in the school of Athens: a Renaissance man and his contribution to Western thought and neuroscience. *Neurosurgery* 64:374–381
5. Tbakhi A, Amr SS (2008) Ibn Rushd (Averroës): prince of science. *Ann Saudi Med* 28:117–145

S. E. J. Golzari · A. Kazemi · M. Khalili
Medical Philosophy and History Research Center,
Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Tabriz, Iran

M. M. Mirinejad
Department of Anesthesiology, Tabriz University
of Medical Sciences, Tabriz, Iran

K. Ghabili (✉)
Tuberculosis and Lung Disease Research Center,
Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Tabriz, Iran
e-mail: kghabili@gmail.com