

Contributions of Muslim Scientists to Medicine and Related Sciences

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CHAPTER TWO

AL-MAJUSI: THE PIONEER IN OBSTETRICS

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2.1 INTRODUCTION

The methodology adopted in this research is library based research. Data and information are collected from reliable previous works and reviews. This research is basically to explore the contribution of Al-Majusi to the field of obstetrics. The research explores the theory of how a baby being pushed during delivery process. The research also explores the content of Al-Majusi's famous book which is Kitab al-Maliki. The significant of this research is the revelation of Al-Majusi's work in the obstetrics specifically on women's reproductive anatomies and the process of delivery.

2.2 OBSTETRICS AND AL-MAJUSI

Obstetrics is a branch of medicine which concerned with the treatment of women during pregnancy, labour, childbirth, and the time after childbirth. Almost all modern obstetricians are also gynaecologists. Obstetricians will make sure that the pregnancy ends in the delivery of a healthy baby, without affecting the health of the mother. The mother's womb size and estimates the length of her pregnancy can be disclosed by doing the physical examination. The obstetrician can observe and non-invasively diagnose intra-uterine conditions by using ultrasonography technique. The patterns of cervical dilation are shown by Friedman's chart. Physicians grew interested in the field. Obstetrics is normally combined with gynecology as a medical specialty. (Bonnar, 1992) There are lots of theories mentioned about the origin of the obstetrics. As mentioned by Drife in his article about history of obstetrics,

“The history of obstetrics is inextricably linked with the history of midwifery. Indeed, the first successful caesarean section in the British Isles was performed by an Irish midwife, Mary Donally, in 1738” (Drife, 2002, p.311)

In Muslim world, besides Ibn Sina, Al-Razi, and some other famous Muslim doctors Al-Majusi is one of the pioneer in obstetrics. Al-Majusi or his real name 'Ali ibn al-'Abbas al-Majusi was born in 925 A.D. and died in 994 A.D. Al-Majusi also known as Masoudi, or Haly Abbas as called the Europeans. He was a Persian physician and psychologist and