

# Contributions of Muslim Scientists to Medicine and Related Sciences

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INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

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## **CHAPTER TWENTY EIGHT**

### **INHALATION AND ORAL ANESTHETICS: VIEWS OF SELECTED MUSLIM PHYSICIANS**

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#### **28.1 INTRODUCTION**

The physicians during Islamic civilization were familiar with surgery and have practiced different kinds of surgical procedures such as amputation, tonsillectomies, excision of tumors, and in some instances describing technical details. They have given a great attention to sickness pain and have performed surgery using some kind of pain allayment. The main objective of this chapter is to highlight the type of anesthesia early physician have used and who are the first Muslim scientists who have either developed or export anesthetics to their surgery.

This chapter investigates the early Muslim anesthesiologists such as Al-Razi, Ibn Sina, Al-Zahrawi, and Ibn Zuhur among other great surgeons who have paid great attention to the phenomenon of pain and their methodology of using anesthetics. The methodology adopted in this chapter is to find out how these physicians were able to describe the specific actions of anesthetics and side effects of the drugs. They were aware of the length of action expected which denote personal experience and observation. The significance of this chapter is that Muslim physicians' have categorized anesthesia science into oral and inhalation anesthesia. Also, this chapter shows that the use of anesthesia was one of the reasons for the rise of surgery in the Islamic world to the level of an honorable specialty.

#### **28.2 HISTORY OF ANESTHESIA IN SURGERY**

Anesthesia derived from the Greek word meaning an act of relieving pain during surgery and other procedures on the body. Text books at hand, however, indicate that inhalational anesthesia as such was not known before, and that there may have been some attempts, tried by the Greeks and Romans who are reported to have used magic and superstition, hypothermia and real use of analgesic mixtures. Indian surgeons have used Hyoscamus (Henbane) and cannabis indicia as anesthetics and in some cases hypnosis was used as well. There are three important facts about anesthesia must be well corrected through history as stated (Kasem Ajram, 1992) as follows:

##### **28.2.1. Inhalation Anesthesia**

C.W. Long, an American in 1845, conducted the first surgery performed under inhalation anesthesia. Six hundred years prior, Muslim physicians and surgeons have