

Brief History of Pediatric Surgery and Establishment Stages in Turkey

Çocuk Cerrahisinin Kısa Tarihçesi ve Türkiye’de Kuruluş Aşamaları

Gökhan Arkan, Nesrin Çobanoğlu

Gazi University Faculty of Medicine Department of Pediatric Surgery Besevler, Ankara, Turkey.

ABSTRACT

Past, present and future affect each other directly and indirectly. For this reason, the history of medicine is of great importance in understanding how today's medicine was shaped as it became today and in planning the future of medicine by analyzing the processes it went through. Although medical knowledge has increased cumulatively over the ages, the rate of increase in knowledge in the last century has required more the need for specialization in medicine and many fields of specialization have emerged. The field of pediatric surgery has emerged in the modern sense in the last sixty years in Turkey and reached its current form. For this reason, medical historians have closely witnessed the birth, growth and development of pediatric surgery, as it is a very young surgical discipline. Knowing the journey of the pediatric surgery specialty from the past to the present will help pediatric surgeons to understand the current state of their field.

Keywords: Pediatric surgery, medical history

Received: 07.27.2022

Accepted: 08.11.2022

ÖZET

Geçmiş, günümüz ve gelecek birbirini doğrudan ve dolaylı olarak etkilemektedir. Bu nedenle tıp tarihi, günümüz tıbbının bugün nasıl şekillendiğini anlamak ve tıbbın geçirdiği süreçleri analiz ederek geleceğini planlamak açısından büyük önem taşımaktadır. Tıp bilgilerinin çağlar boyunca kümülatif olarak artış göstermesine rağmen, son yüzyılda bilgi artış hızı tıpta daha fazla uzmanlaşma ihtiyacını gerektirmiş ve birçok uzmanlık alanı ortaya çıkarmıştır. Çocuk cerrahisi alanı, Türkiye’de son altmış yılda modern anlamda ortaya çıkmış ve bugünkü haline ulaşmıştır. Bu nedenle tıp tarihçileri oldukça genç bir cerrahi disiplin olan çocuk cerrahisinin doğumuna, büyüme ve gelişmesine yakından tanıklık etmiştir. Çocuk cerrahisi alanının geçmişten günümüze olan yolculuğunu bilmek, çocuk cerrahlarının kendi alanlarının mevcut durumunu anlamalarına yardımcı olacaktır.

Anahtar Sözcükler: Çocuk cerrahisi, tıp tarihi

Geliş Tarihi: 27.07.2022

Kabul Tarihi: 11.08.2022

ORCID IDs: G.A. 0000-0002-1429-4690, N.Ç.0000-0001-5080-0987

Address for Correspondence / Yazışma Adresi: Gökhan Arkan, MD Gazi University Faculty of Medicine Department of Pediatric Surgery Besevler, 06550 Ankara, Turkey E-mail: gokhanarkan.md@gmail.com

©Telif Hakkı 2023 Gazi Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi - Makale metnine <http://medicaljournal.gazi.edu.tr/> web adresinden ulaşılabilir.

©Copyright 2023 by Gazi University Medical Faculty - Available on-line at web site <http://medicaljournal.gazi.edu.tr/>

doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.12996/gmj.2023.21>

The records of surgical diseases of infants and children were first encountered in the Sumerian tablets in 3500 BC, in the myth known as 'Enki and Nimnah: The creation of man'. While the creation of man was celebrated on the tablets at the banquet table with alcoholic drinks, the Goddess Nimnah, jealous of Enki's creation of the perfect man, created six babies with anomalies. The fourth baby was described as urinary incontinence, the fifth baby as infertile, and the sixth baby as ambiguous genitale. This myth is important because these diseases are mentioned for the first time in history, and it is thought that it may indicate the teratogenic effect of alcohol (1-2).



Figure 1. A tablet from the myth of 'Enki and Nimnah: The Creation of Man' on the Sumerian Tablets, Louvre Museum (1).

In the 15th century, Amasyalı Şerafettin Sabuncuoğlu first mentioned the surgical problems of infants and children in 'Cerrahiyet'ül Haniye (or Cerrahiye-i İlhaniye)' as a comprehensive and scientific medical document in terms of pediatric surgery. He not only translated the thirtieth volume of the thirty-volume medical encyclopedia named 'Tasrif' by the Muslim scholar Zehravi, but also enriched it with additions, arrangements and miniatures in 'Cerrahiyet'ül Haniye' and published it and presented it to Sultan of the Ottoman Empire Mehmet II.

In Cerrahiyet'ül Haniye, surgical approach to diseases such as circumcision and circumcision errors, hypospadias, labial fusion, inguinal hernia, hydrocele, anorectal malformation, ambiguous genitale are explained with miniatures.



Figure 2. Surgical approach to hypospadias (3).



Figure 3. Surgical approach to anorectal malformation (3).



Figure 4. Inguinal hernia surgery (3).



Figure 5. Manual separation of labial fusion (3).



Figure 7. Surgical approach to urolithiasis (3).



Figure 6. Circumcision (3).

As can be seen, surgical interventions for infants and children date back thousands of years, but the development of pediatric surgery occurred after the establishment of children's hospitals in Turkey as well as all over the world. After the death of his daughter Hatice Sultan due to diphtheria, Sultan Abdülhamit 2 wanted to build a mosque, fountain or school for his daughter's sake. However, the proposal to build a children's hospital instead of them by Hatice Sultan's doctor Ibrahim Bey was accepted by the sultan in 1899. It was established in Şişli, Istanbul under the name of Hamidiye Etfal. Thus, a children's hospital was established for the first time in Turkey, and a surgical pavilion was also built in the established hospital (4).

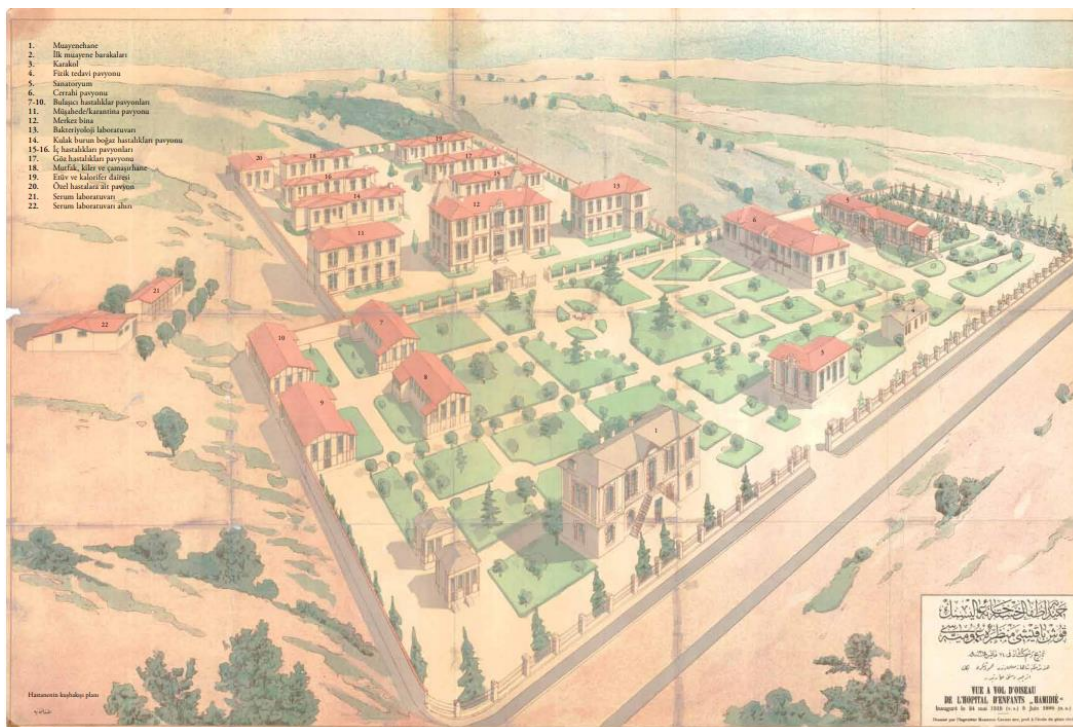


Figure 8. Map of Hamidiye Etfal (4).

The chair of pediatric surgery and orthopedics was first established at Istanbul University for Doctor Mouchet, an officer of the French occupation army. In 1922, Captain Akif Şakir Bey became an clinical research assistant in this chair. Pediatric Surgery and Orthopedics courses were added to the curriculum of Istanbul University Faculty of Medicine for the first time in 1931 by Doctor Akif Şakir Şakar, and later in 1933, with the University Reform, the Department of Pediatric Surgery and Orthopedics was established in Şişli Etfal Hospital within the body of Istanbul University (5-6-7). The first pediatric surgery book in line with modern medical views was also published by Doctor Şakar in 1936 under the name of 'Çocuk Cerrahisi ve Ortopedi Kliniği Dersleri' (8)



Figure 9. Professor Akif Şakir Şakar, MD. (5).

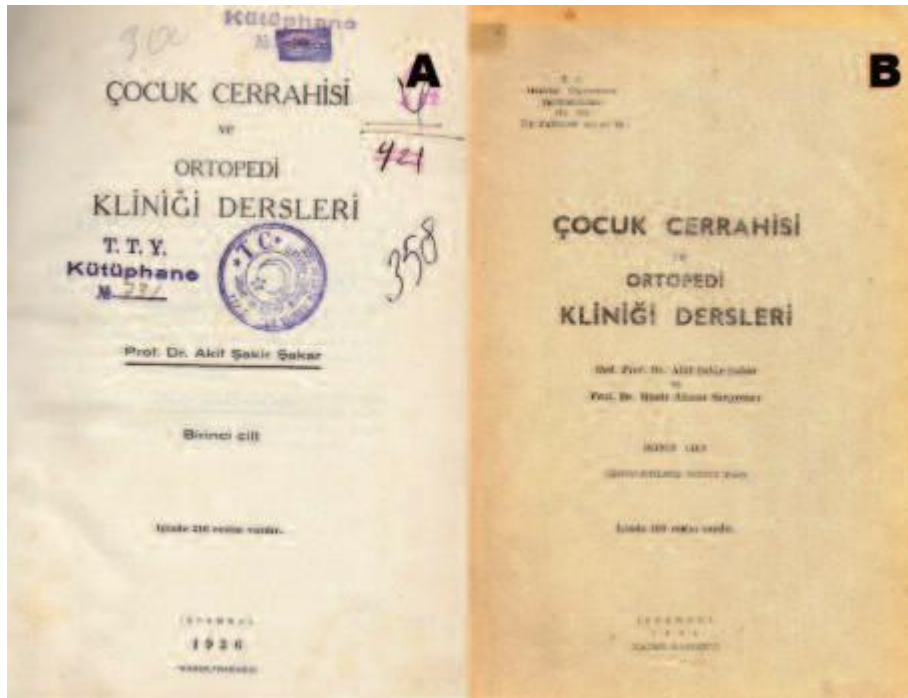


Figure 10. First modern textbook of Pediatric Surgery in Turkey (8).

Doctor İhsan Numanoğlu graduated from Istanbul University in 1957 as a general surgeon. After working in Akif Şakar's clinic, he established the first modern pediatric surgery and orthopedics clinic at Ege University in 1961. Doctor Akgün Hiçsönmez completed his general surgery residency training, which he started at Ankara University, in 1959 at Ege University. Then, he received Pediatric Surgery training at Pittsburgh Children's Hospital in 1961 and at Memphis Le Bonheur Children's Hospital between 1962 and 1963. In 1963, he established a pediatric surgery clinic in Hacettepe Children's Hospital. (9-10) They are considered the founding professors of pediatric surgery.



Figure 11. Professor İhsan Numanoğlu, MD. (11).



Figure 12. Professor Akgün Hiçsönmez, MD. (12).

According to the 1961 specialization statute prepared by the Ministry of Health with the proposal of the Ege University Faculty of Medicine, Pediatric Surgery and Orthopedics were separated from each other and became separate specialization branches (13). According to the 1961 medical specialty statute, 'Pediatric Surgeon' is a title obtained with a 3-year specialization after 2 years of specialization in the 'surgery group or general health group'. (13) According to the medical specialty statute of 1962; In order to become a pediatric surgeon, it is necessary to be a general surgeon with 4 years of training and then 2 years of pediatric surgery training. (14) According to the medical specialty statute published in 1973, 'Pediatric Surgery' became a specialty after medical education. (15) In 1982, Pediatric Surgery was defined as a department with the Higher Education Law No. 2547 and took its current form.

Conflict of interest

No conflict of interest was declared by the authors.

REFERENCES

- 1-Ağartan AC, Öner S. (2010). Congenital anomalies: An analysis of a myth on Sumerian clay tablets. *Türkiye Klinikleri J Med Sci*, 30, 457-462.
- 2-Büyükcünal SNC. Türkiye'de Çocuk Cerrahisinin Tarihçesi, *Çocuk Cerrahisi Dergisi* 24(2):55-66, 2010.
- 3-Ünver AS. Şerefeddin Sabuncuoğlu: Cerrahiye İlhamiye Paris Nüshası Resimleri, Kenan Basimevi, İstanbul, 1939
- 4-Yıldırım N. Hastane Tarihimizde Bir Kutup Yıldızı Hamidiye Etfal Hastanesi, İstanbul, 2010.
- 5-Şehsuvaroğlu B.N. Ord. Prof. Dr. Akif Şakir Şakar, İstanbul Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi Mecmuası, Cilt:22, Sayı1, 1959
- 6-Kuzgun Ü. Ord. Prof. Dr. Akif Şakir Şakar Türkiye'de Ortopedinin Kuruluşu, *Dirim Dergisi*, 2015.
- 7-Başaklar AC. Bebek ve Çocukların Cerrahi ve Ürolojik Hastalıkları, Palme Yayıncılık, 2006.
- 8-Gürsu ŞS, Gürsu T, Yıldırım T, Gürsu HA, Şahin V. Tıp Tarihindeki Ortopedik Efemeralar. *Türkiye Klinikleri J Med Ethics* 2013;21(3):141-6
- 9-Melikoğlu M. Hocamız Prof. Dr. Akgün Hiçsönmez anısına. *Çoc. Cer. Derg.* 2019;33(3):85-9.
- 10-Numanoğlu İ. Çocuk Cerrahisi, Ege Üniversitesi Matbaası, 1983.
- 11-pedsurg.med.ege.edu.tr (Erişim Tarihi 11.08.2022)
- 12-Topuzlu Tekant G. In memoriam: Professor Akgün Hiçsönmez. *Journal of Pediatric Surgery* 55 (2020) 579-580.
- 13-T.C. Resmi Gazete, Sayı:10828, 14 Haziran 1961.
- 14-T.C. Resmi Gazete, Sayı:11199, 6 Eylül 1962.
- 15-T.C. Resmi Gazete, Sayı:14511, 18 Nisan 1973.