

# Contributions of Muslim Scientists to Medicine and Related Sciences

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INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

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## **CHAPTER TWENTY FOUR**

### **AL- ZAHRAWI METHOD ON INFLAMMATORY SWELLINGS AND TUMOURS SURGERY**

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#### **24.1 INTRODUCTION**

The objective of this chapter is to list the contribution of Al-Zahrawi in the surgery of swellings and tumours. This chapter explores Al- Zahrawi as a surgeon in the field of inflammatory swellings and tumours. He was known as the most notable Muslim surgeon during the Islamic civilization. His name is Abu-Al-Qasim Khalaf Ibn'Abbas Al-Zahrawi known as Abulcasis, Bucasis or Alzahravius. In 930 A.D., he was born in Al-Zahra, a suburb of Cordova. He attended the University of Cordova which had been established for one and a half centuries. Al-Zahrawi as a physician was appointed as the Court-Physician of King Abdel-Rahman III (Amr SS, 2007, pp. 220-1). He spent a productive life in practicing medicine, especially in surgery and medical writings. He wrote mainly four books. One of them is "Al-Tastif Liman Ajiz'an Al-Ta'lif" which is the best medieval surgical encyclopaedia.

The methodology adopted in this chapter, is to find the approaches that Al-Zahrawi has used from ancient physicians and the new methods and tools that he has added to the field of surgery and especially to the surgery of swellings and tumours. The main focus of this chapter is to provide answers on Al-Zahrawi has identified different types of swellings such as Aneurysm, Tonsils, Thyroid, Ranula, Breast cancer and how he has distinguished between considering it swellings, tumours or malignancy tumours. The significance of the chapter is that Al-Zahrawi has identified and distinguished between swellings and tumours and also he has performed sophisticated surgeries on swellings and tumours.

#### **24.2 AL-ZAHRAWI THROUGH HISTORY**

Al-Zahrawi was greatly influenced by the ancient Greeks as well as by other physicians and surgeons in other parts of the world, including those from India with whose works he was directly or indirectly acquainted (Ahmad, 2010). The book of Al-Tasrif was the most famous documentary that Al-Zahrawi has written in medicine and especially surgery. It was initially translated in Latin at Toledo by Gerard Cremona in 1100 AD and since then for the next 5 centuries it was translated in Hebrew, French, English and other European languages. Many of these translated books are still available in the libraries in Berlin, London, Paris and Washington D.C11. Al-Tasrif has been recognized by many scholars in medicine during European resonance. Guy de Chauliac, a fourteenth century French surgeon, quoted Al-Tasrif over 200 times in his book, "The Great Surgery". ( M. Basheer Ahmed, 2009)