

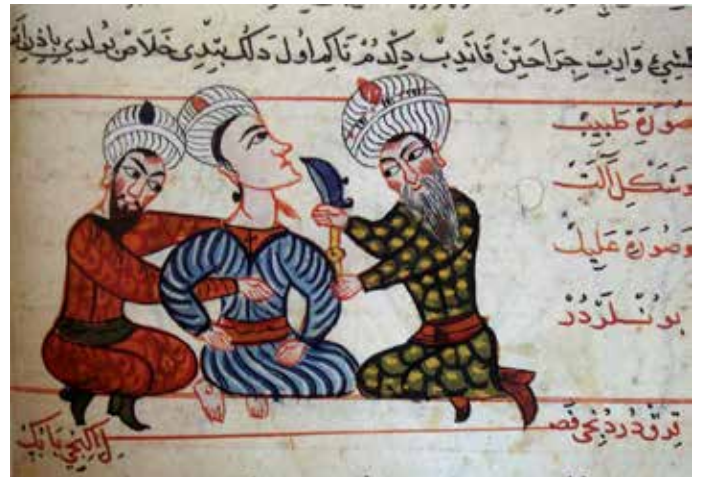
surgery

introduction

Have you ever had to go to hospital for surgery? Although it can be a scary business, it's also really amazing to think what surgeons are able to do nowadays. Using cutting-edge equipment, surgeons can help patients recover from all kinds of conditions and problems with less and less side effects as techniques and technologies develop. But surgery is nothing new. Human beings have been performing surgery in one form or another since prehistoric times, with different cultures and societies contributing to its development for many thousands of years. Around one thousand years ago, Muslim pioneers in southern Spain like Abū al-Qāsim al-Zahrāwī were revolutionising the way surgery was understood and performed, with many of their techniques and instruments still being used by surgeons today. Without the incredible advances in surgery that took place in the medieval Islamic world, the miracles that are performed by surgeons in our hospitals today simply wouldn't be possible.

questions to think about

- When do people have to have surgery?
- What different types of surgery can you think of?
- Have you or anyone you know ever had surgery? How did it help?
- What makes surgery safer nowadays?
- How has surgery improved over the past 100 years?
- Who performs surgery now?
- Who did it in the past?



Surgical operations in the middle Ages, the work of Arab doctors. Al-Zahrawi's book on surgery.

where to find out more

Learn more about the history of surgery:

<http://broughttolife.sciencemuseum.org.uk/broughttolife/themes/surgery>

Medicine through time:

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/topics/zwd82hv>
<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/guides/zxg6wxw/revision/1>

Learn more about the history of medicine:

<http://broughttolife.sciencemuseum.org.uk/broughttolife>

Medical care in Muslim Civilisation:

<http://www.1001inventions.com/node/1592>

Medical books in Muslim Civilisation:

<http://www.1001inventions.com/WorldHealthDay>