

History of Plastic Surgery



* The **Edwin Smith papyrus**, dates to Dynasties [16–17](#) of the [Second Intermediate Period](#) in ancient Egypt, **1600 BCE**.

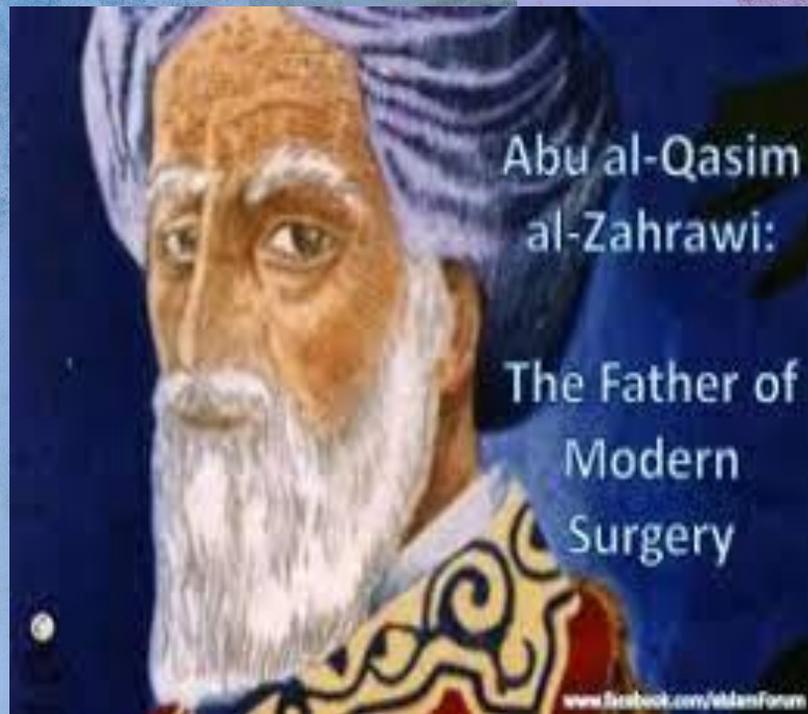
* It is considered as a manual of military surgery, describes 48 cases of injuries, fractures, wounds,

dislocations and tumors and shows that the pharaonic physician was treating cases of fracture of the nose by internal and external splinting.

*It Presents a rational and scientific approach to medicine in ancient Egypt



Old Indian text **the Sushruta Samhita** (600 BC) describes a technique for reconstruction of the nose by a forehead flap. This described method is still the basis of our modern technique of reconstruction of defects of the nose. Galen the Greek physician has described techniques to repair cleft lip.



Abu el Kasem El Zahrawy the famous Andalusian physician in the ninth century described operations for cleft lip but most interestingly he described an operation to correct gynecomastia by excising an ellipse of skin above the areola.

El Zahrawy wrote that the indication of this surgery is to correct the ugly appearance of this condition. This is an early concept of esthetic surgery.

Tagliacozzi in Italy in the fifteenth century used a flap from the arm to reconstruct the nose. This is an early description of a distant flap.

Tagliacozzi has written about his work on the nose and other areas of the body: "*we restore what nature has given and chance took away*".

The real progress in surgery occurred in the nineteenth century after the discovery of anesthesia. Many new plastic surgery procedures were invented and practiced such as repair of cleft palate, practice of skin grafting, use of tubed skin flaps and many cosmetic procedures to correct prominent ears, reduction rhinoplasty and mammoplasty. Early in nineteenth century the term plastic surgery was used and books describing operations of this specialty started to appear.

The First World War with the so many facial injuries and deformities gave a great boost to plastic surgery. **Sir Francis Gillis** has a started a specialized unit in Queens Hospital in London for management of facial injuries. Another unit was established by **Sir Archibald McIndoe**. Plastic surgery units were then established in Europe and USA.



The American Board of Plastic Surgery was established in 1937 and started giving its board certificate in 1941. This guaranteed a standard training and competence for all American plastic surgeons, Following the Second world war plastic surgery is in a steady progress. Now there are many plastic surgery subspecialties has evolved such as hand surgery, cranio-maxillo-facial surgery, cosmetic surgery and many other surgical specialties are incorporating plastic surgery procedures in their curriculum.

By Prof. Ahmed Elsharkawy