History of Spine Surgery in Turkey

Spine related applications in Turkey dates back to 15th century. Today the profession is evolving in modern Turkish doctors’ hands.

by Dr. Sait Naderi

The first spine related applications in Turkey can be attributed to Sefeddin Sabuncuoglu, a Turkish surgeon of 15th century. Sabuncuoglu applied cauterization to the painful points of the back, low back and leg. He published the technique of cautery for low back pain, gibbus and sciatica. He illustrated these techniques in his famous surgery atlas, Cerrahiyyet Han eye. Although the text of this book was very similar to Eltasnif, a surgery book written by Al-Zahrasi of Cordoba. This book was featured by many illustrations and written in Turkish. The other important aspect of this book was description of technique for reduction of thoracolumbar fracture dislocations. He designed a special apparatus for this aim.

New century, new medicine

Until 19th century, traditional medicine and surgery were applied in Turkey. In 1827, first modern school of medicine was established in Istanbul. After establishment of Tophane, a medical school, many physicians and surgeons graduated from this school and completed their training in Germany and France. One of these surgeons, Dr. Cemil Topuzlu, who returned to Turkey in 1890, contributed to the development of modern surgery in Turkey. He performed many surgical applications.

It is of note that many spine related procedures were performed by general surgeons in Turkey in late 19th and early 20th century. After development of new specialties, neurosurgeons and orthopaedic surgeons performed many spine related procedures.

Dr. Cemil Topuzlu, a general surgeon, performed many laminectomies for spine tuberculosis and spine trauma. Dr. Wieting, a German general surgeon and administrator of Gulhane Hospital in Turkey, performed many spine related operations, including posterior selective nizotomy for spasticity, laminectomy for spine processes and reconstructive procedures for meningo myelocele.

Success followed one another

In 1923, first successful laminectomy and resection of spine tumor was performed by Dr. Abdulkadir Cahit Tuner, neurosurgeon of Zeynep Kamil Hospital. In 1930’s many similar procedures were performed. In 1925, Dr. Mim Kemal Öke, a general surgeon attending in Gülhane Hospital, performed first Albee spine fusion procedure in spine tuberculosis. A similar procedure was performed by Dr. Burhanettin Toker, another general surgeon, one year later.

In 1940’s, Dr. Mümün Ahmet Surp yeni, a pediatric and orthopaedic surgeon, described congenital spinal stenosis. He published these cases in Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery in 1945 and 1947.

In 1948, Dr. Hami Dilek, a neurosurgeon who trained in France, operated first lumbar disc herniation. He published first large series of lumbar disc herniation in late 1950’s and early 1960’s. The first anterior discectomy and Choward procedure in cervical disc herniation was performed in 1964 by Dr. Choward and Dr. Avman, a neurosurgeon.

In 1967, Dr. Bertan, a neurosurgeon of Ankara, used a cervical plate for fixation of cervical spine in a case of instable cervical spine trauma.

In 1968, Dr. Güngör Sami Çakrıl, an orthopaedic surgeon of Ankara, performed the first Harrington procedure in Turkey, just six years after publication of this technique in 1962 by Dr. Harrington. In 1970 and 1980’s many aggressive procedures, using hooks and wires were performed in Turkey. In early 1990’s, many new pedicle fixation techniques, and complex approaches were performed by Turkish spine surgeons.

First ‘spine society’

In 1990, Dr. Aliy, an orthopaedic surgeon of Izmir, founded first spine society in Turkey, Turkish Spine Society. This society organized some national and international meetings in Turkey, and started to publication of Turkish Journal of Spine Surgery.

In 1995, Dr. Zileli and Özer pioneered spinal surgery organization among neurosurgeons, founding Spine Section of Turkish Neurosurgical Society. The Section organized many national and local meetings, and published its bulletin, and many books on different aspects of spine surgery.

Today spine surgery in Turkey is in a very well condition and Turkish spine surgeons play active role in the development of spine medicine. Every year many papers written by Turkish surgeons are published in spine literature. Turkish spine surgeons are not only active member of scientific societies but also play active role in the all aspects of spine health care.

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Dear Colleagues and Friends,

With great pleasure and pride I welcome you to EUROSPINE 2006 in Istanbul - this year’s annual meeting of the SPINE SOCIETY OF EUROPE (SSE).

Spine specialists from all around the world will be guests in Turkey for the first time in the history of our scientific society. The professional organization of this outstanding scientific event has attracted a record number of international physicians, surgeons and other professionals, sponsors and exhibitors from the medical industry involved in spinal care.

The importance of the EUROSPINE meetings has been growing each year over the last decade. For the scientifically working spine community EUROSPINE has become one of the most important events worldwide to present their new, original experimental and clinical data. The outstanding number of more than 850 abstracts which were submitted gave a hard time to this year’s program committee. They have done a great job and succeeded to establish a scientific program full of interesting, new and original lectures and posters which cover the current state-of-the-art in spinal anatomy, biomechanics, diagnosis and treatment.

The tradition of lunch-workshops organized by the SPINE SOCIETY OF EUROPE will be continued during this year’s meeting covering hot topics such as ‘Spine Surgery in the future’ or ‘The Aging Spine’ - just to mention two.

Dramatic changes in the health care system are going on in a lot of European countries and ‘best evidence medicine’, quality control, and collection of outcome data play an increasing role in the interaction between doctors, healthcare providers, insurance companies and patients. The SSE will address these issues during the meeting and offers a special symposium on HEALTH CARE TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT with internationally outstanding speakers. We are happy, that the medical industry besides their exhibition booths again offers a large variety of lunch-workshops which cover the newest procedures and ‘cutting-edge’ technologies.

Last but not least, the social program will certainly fulfill all our wishes and will give us time and opportunities to meet in a relaxed atmosphere to revive old and make new contacts with colleagues and friends from all around the world.

I would like to congratulate the local organizers Haluk Berk and Murat Hanci in the name of the SSE for their excellent work.

In the name of the Executive Committee of the SPINE SOCIETY OF EUROPE I wish you all a great EUROSPINE 2006 meeting and beautiful and interesting days in the fascinating city of Istanbul.

A warm welcome to all of you!

From the Organizers

On behalf of the Organizing Committee of the European Spine 2006 Congress it is our privilege to welcome you all in Istanbul.

For the last four years we did our best to organize the European Spine 2006 Congress as a scientific forum which will satisfy your expectations both scientifically and socially. We tried to add a step forward in the direction of progress which the previous Eurospine achieved.

We are delighted to provide another opportunity for our colleagues coming from all around the world strengthen the ties between themselves. This, we hope will help to promote our advancement in science by the exchange of views and ideas.

The scientific programme was meticulously prepared by the close collaboration with the SSE Program Committee. We owe gratitude for their kind help. Every reachable source of information - national, international or personal – was tried to be consulted. SSE principle of worldwide representation in each topic needed careful study of available proposals. We may have our shortcomings but would like to assure you that we tried to meet all the requirements providing they have been made in the right time and in the right place to be accommodated.

As an ancient city Istanbul has much to offer you. You may like to explore the remains of the three empires which dominated this part of the world in the past. Mystic silhouette of the city and the unique beauty of Bosphorus still survive in spite of the cruel effects of urbanization and economic necessities. The monuments of all religions are around you. Yet, you can enjoy the modern life if you wish.

Turkish hospitality is a well known phenomenon. All the people of Istanbul, whether in charge of the Congress or not, will be pleased to help you.

We are proud to have scientific workers and practitioners of all subspecialties gathered here for such a prestigious meeting to discuss the advancements made in our specialty during the last four years. We sincerely hope you will enjoy stay with us during the Congress and return home with long lasting pleasant memories.
Bearing the traces of most remarkable civilizations ever founded on earth; this city is like the microcosmos of the world east to west.

Istanbul is the only city in the world to straddle two continents - Europe and Asia. Known throughout history as Constantinople, it’s been the centre of two of the greatest empires the world has ever seen. Now, Istanbul is a unique city with its charismatic identity. Istanbul today is a vast city of 10 million people. Its a huge metropolitan connecting continents, cultures, religions and one of the greatest business and cultural center of the region.

In its south stretches Marmara Sea and in its north is Black Sea. Its west part is in Europe and east part is in Asia. The important waterline dividing Istanbul into two is the Bosporus. This waterline is the only alternative to reach the Aegean Sea and the Mediterranean Sea, therefore to open seas.

Istanbul is one place in the world where you can live in Asia and commute to work in Europe or vice versa. Ferries criss-cross the Bosporus, carrying the intercontinental commuters from shore to shore. Joining the commuters on the Bosporus is one of Istanbul’s must dos, a cruise along the grand Ottoman-mansioned shores. The daily cruises last up to five hours and you can get off at any part of the city that line the route.

Witness to History

Istanbul was formerly known as Byzantium. The signs of first communal settlements in Istanbul and its surroundings date back to long years ago. While the first traces extend back to 6th century BC. It is considered that the oldest finds date to the end of the 4th century or the beginning of the 3rd century BC.

The foundations of today’s Istanbul were framed by Megarians coming from Greece during 7th century BC. In year 330, Roman Emperor Constantin the First declared Byzantine as the new capital. The city was re-built and named ‘Constantinopolis’. In 1204, the city was taken over by Crusaders and raided ruthlessly. During the invasion from 1204 to 1261, all monumental landmarks, including St. Sophia were destroyed, hundreds of years old hand-written books were burned. Many precious Byzantine remains were moved to Europe. Second Byzantine Period began with the repossess of Istanbul by Palaiologos Dynasty from the Latin in 1261. While in 1373, Istanbul started to pay taxes to Ottomans. Conquest of Istanbul on 29 May 1453 was a turning point for Turks. Islam and the world, in a way to shape the course of history. Most important of all, from the point of view of many historians, was the ending of Middle Age by the conquest of Istanbul.

A New Era Begins

When Istanbul came under Turkish rule Mehmet is known to have brought people from various parts of his empire and settled them in the deserted and devastated city. In the first years after the conquest there were areas within the city almost entirely populated by Christians. Then gradually the non-Muslims became concentrated in certain parts of the city, such as Samatya, Edirnekapı and Fener and the remaining area of the city was populated by Turks. In the late Ottoman period the Galata district was preferred by non-Muslims. This is how the Beşiktaş district was created.

Republic and Modern Istanbul

After the First World War, Ottoman Empire was defeated with its allies. In October 9, 1920, Turkish soldiers entered Izmir boundaries led by supreme national leader Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. This event started the independence process for Istanbul. After the notorious Independence War, in November 4, 1923, Istanbul was completely free of invading forces. Therefore, the second invasion of Istanbul by Europeans after Latin invasion terminated.

Istanbul gained a new look with the declaration of the republic. This was when the modern face of Istanbul started to be established. Istanbul, which was a capital to three great empires, survived its notoriety as the most cosmopolitan and sublime city of the country.

Mystery of women begins at Bronze Age

Dr. Temel Tacal is a specialist of orthopedics and traumatology. He currently works in Baltmanns Hospital of Bones Diseases. He is interested in photography and explains his vision regarding photography as “Photography is not only to press shutter release but also a kind of self expression, a look at the situation and a reflection of what to mean”. In his exhibition, Temel Tacal focuses on female body and narrates its figure throughout history with his photography. The exhibition can be visited at the main entrance lobby, on the left side.

Extreme deformities ...

Cokun Aral is a famous Turkish media photographer. The photographs taken by Aral on bloody May 1 were known all over the world via Sipa Press Agency in 1977. His works were published in hundreds of worldwide magazines since then. He has been working as a war reporter for Time, Newsweek, Paris Match, Stern, Epoch. He is also the producer of a documentary film series ‘Haberci’. ‘Extreme deformities That People Make On Their Bodies Willingly’ is a stunning collection from his accomplished photography. The exhibition can be visited at the main entrance lobby on the right side.

The Fire of Anatolia

Including a synthesis of hundreds of folkdance figures and music from different regions, “The Fire of Anatolia” is a unique project that gets its source from Anatolia’s mythological and cultural history. The group would like to introduce the world the fire that arises from the ancient mosaic of love, culture, history and peace of Anatolia.

“The Fire of Anatolia” started its world tour in 2002 and since then from Germany to Belgium, Holland to Switzerland, Israel to China, Romania to Qatar, Bulgaria to Jordan, Slovenia to Azerbaijan and K.K.T.C. to Japan has met audiences of many different countries. The group is meeting Eurospin 2006 audience before the Welcome Cocktail.

You are invited

You are invited to the Welcome Cocktail Party at 16.30 at the Auditorium of ICEC. All registered participants and accompanying persons are welcome.
Experience the living Istanbul

Where to go

Museums
St. Sophia Museum
St. Sophia served for 916 years as a church and 481 years as a mosque since its year of construction and turned into a museum in 1935.
Address: Sultanahmet Square 34400
Phone: +90 212 522 17 50–522 0989

Dolmabahçe Palace Museum
Address: Dolmabahçe Road. 80680, Phone: +90 212 258 55 44

Museum of Turkish Calligraphic Arts Association
Address: Beyazıt Square 34490
Phone: +90 212 527 58 51

Rumeli Hisarı Museum
Address: Rumelian Hisar
Phone: +90 212 263 53 05

Istanbul Modern
Address: Meclis-i Mebusan Road
Antrepo No: 4 Karaköy
Phone: +90 212 334 7300

Historical Bazaars
Kapalı Çarşı (Grand Bazaar)
Kapalı Çarşı holds and area of about 31 thousand square meters. Today has a surface of 30.7 hectares, 61 streets, 10 wells, 4 fountains, 2 mosques and over 3 thousand shops. It has managed to claim its present look within 250 years.

Spice Market
Completed in 1660, Spice Market has had a restoration in 1943. Numbers of herbalists and natural products of old Istanbul are being sold.

Palaces
Dolmabahçe Palace
Commissioned by Sultan Abdülmeccid Dolmabahçe Palace was completed in 1856. The palace is built on an area of 250.000 m² on sea-filled surface. The palace is comprised of a main unit, Heir Section, Furniture and Guards’ Room, Operational Mansions, Glass Mansion and other small pavilions. Has 8 spacious saloons and 200 rooms, two main and seven side gates and five gates on the sea front.
Address: Dolmabahçe Road. 80680
Phone: +90 212 258 55 44

You have got too many alternatives for your leisure times here. Here is a selection of highlighted activities and places to consider on the course of your stay

Topkapı Palace
Structures like Kubbeaths where Divan meetings were held, Horka-i Saadet section where belongings of Hz. Mohammedi and the Caliphs are kept, Gülthane Hospital, Sultan Ahmed the 3rd Library, Palace school, Treasury Office and St. Irene Church which was used as weapon storage for some time are open for visit.
Address: Saray içi, Sultanahmet
Phone: +90 212 512 04 08

Concerts
Selim Sesler Group
October 26, 2006
Venue: Babylon at 21.30 (Traditional Gypsy music based on clarinet combined with avant-garde jazz.)
+90 212 292 7368

Yevgeny Sudbin Piano Recital
October 30, 2006
Monday
Venue: Cemal Reşit Rey Concert Hall at 20.30
+90 212 232 9830

Balet
Gelin (The bride)
October 27, 2006 at 19.30
Venue: Atatürk Culture Center
Concert Hall
+90 212 251 5600

Operet
West Side Story
October 26, 2006
Venue: Atatürk Culture Center Grand Hall at 20.00

Exhibitions
Venice - Istanbul
October 18, 2006 - January 18, 2007
Venue: The Istanbul Museum of Modern Art (A selection of Works from the 51th Venice biennial)
+90 212 334 7300

Epson Art Photo Award 2005
September 19 - October 30, 2006
Venue: Goethe Institut (A selection of Works from Epson Art Photo Awards)
+90 212 249 2009
1st International Istanbul Biennial of Photography
September 15 - October 31, 2006
Venue: Various public spaces (Concept: Chaos and magic)

Where to eat

Turkish Cuisine
Manzara Conrad Hotel
Beşiktaş +90 (212) 227 30 00

Tugra Çırağan Palace Hotel
Çırağan St. No:32 Beşiktaş
+90 (212) 258 33 77
Atlas
İstiklal St. 251/2 Beyoğlu
+90 (212) 292 48 13-14
Hacı Abdullah
Sakızlaçac St. 17 Beyoğlu
+90 (212) 293 85 61
Hacı Baba
İstiklal St. 49 Beyoğlu
+90 (212) 244 18 86
Hacı Salih
İstiklal St. 201 Beyoğlu
+90 (212) 243 45 28

Mediterranean
Çıntemani
Sützer Plaza Askeroaçlı Rd. 15
Elmadag +90 (212) 334 44 44

Passion Marina
Kefeliköy Rd. 142 Tarabya
+90 (212) 299 48 91

Swiss
Cafe Suisse
Swissotel Beyildim Rd. 2 Maçka
+90 (212) 326 11 00

World
Garibaldi
İstiklal St. Beyoğlu
+90 (212) 249 68 95

Hazerfen
İstiklal St. 365/2 Beyoğlu
+90 (212) 252 58 44

Safran
Balo St. 1 Beyoğlu
+90 (212) 243 40 37
Ayaşpaşa Rus Lokantası
İnönü Rd. 77/A Gümüşsuyu
+90 (212) 243 48 92