

## THE DIAGNOSIS AND SURGICAL CORRECTION OF CANAL STENOSIS

# MÜNİR AHMET SARPYENER

1902 – 1982



**1923** Graduated from the Istanbul University Medical School.  
**1924** Intern at Gülhane Clinical Practice Hospital.  
**1925-26** General surgery assistant at Haydarpaşa Military Hospital.  
**1927** Worked as a surgeon at the Gülhane Clinical Practice Hospital.  
**1927** Resident at the Pediatric Surgery and Orthopedics Department of the Lyon Medical School in France.  
**1928-1932** Worked in several Military Hospitals in Turkey.  
**1934** Appointed as an associate professor to the Pediatric and Orthopedic Surgery Clinic of Hamidiye Etfal, the Children's Hospital.  
**1941** Became a professor.  
**1942-1958** Employed at the Haseki and Vakıf Gureba hospitals in Istanbul.  
**1958** Became the director of the Pediatric Surgery and Orthopedics Department of Istanbul University Medical School.

His doctorate thesis (1934) was on spina bifida. Following his studies on cadavers and examinations on his patients and their X-rays, in 1944 he described a specific congenital malformation, which he proposed to treat through surgery by expanding the spinal canal.

Sarpyener showed that this malformation, thereafter known as "**canal stenosis**" was a congenital stricture of the spinal canal, constricting the nerves, causing paresias, walking disorders, paresthesias, urinary and fecal incontinence, paralysis and inward bending of the feet.

He published his observations about "**the congenital stricture of the spinal canal**" in two articles, written in German and English ("Congenitile des Wirbelskanal", Wiener Medizinische Wochenschrift, 1944; "Congenital stricture of the spinal canal", Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery 1945), without being aware of the fact that these were the first articles on the subject.



Hamidiye Etfal, The Children's Hospital, Pediatrics Surgery and Orthopedics Clinic's medical team

In 1934, the Pediatric Surgery and Orthopedics clinic of the Children's Hospital was one of the educational hospitals of Istanbul University Medical School. Sarpyener was the head of the clinic which had only ten beds. There were no assistants and only one nurse.

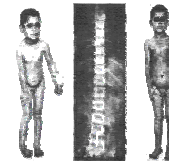
Since pediatric and orthopedic surgery was not recognized as a separate medical speciality, this specific branch of medicine was regarded as unnecessary and the patients were referred from the general surgery outpatient clinic.



During canal stenosis surgery

Sarpyener was also the first to inform that canal stenosis might also be encountered in adult population.

With this contribution, many patients who had been misdiagnosed, or many cases which were thought to be untreatable till then, could successfully be diagnosed and treated.



Before and after operation

He published the journal **Acta Orthopaedica Turcica**. He was one of the founders of the Turkish Orthopedics and Traumatology Society, and the Turkish Sports Medicine Society. He wrote 6 books and more than 200 articles, 25 of which were in foreign languages.