



What did Ottoman doctor Hüseyin Hulki (1862-1894) speak about at the first International Dermatology Congress?

Osmanlı hekimlerinden Hüseyin Hulki Bey (1862-1894) İlk Uluslararası Dermatoloji Kongresinde ne konuştu?

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Abstract

The first international congress for dermatology was held in Paris in 1889. This was the same year as the 100th anniversary of the French Revolution, which was being celebrated in Paris with the construction of the Eiffel Tower, a symbol of the country. Dermatology Congresses have been developing since the beginning and continue today. Dr. Hüseyin Hulki Bey is a physician who has not only contributed to the history of world medicine, but also to the history of Turkish medicine. During his attendance at the first dermatology congress, he presented an alternative treatment for syphilis than that which was known in Ottoman medicine at the time. In this study, the speech of Turkish physician Hüseyin Hulki Bey, who attended the first dermatology congress in history, is investigated.

Keywords: Hüseyin Hulki, dermatology, congress, Paris Medical Congress, history of medicine

Öz

İlk uluslararası dermatoloji kongresi 1889'da Paris'te yapıldı. Fransız Devrimi'nin 100. yıl dönümünün Fransa'da kutlanması ve aynı zamanda ülkenin simgesi olan Eifel Kulesi'nin inşaatının tamamlanmış olması, kongre için ayrı bir ilk oluşturmuştur. Dermatoloji Kongre'leri ilk günden bu yana gelişmekte olup günümüzde de devam etmektedir. Hüseyin Hulki Bey, Türk Tıp Tarihi'nin yanı sıra dünya tıp tarihine de katkı sağlamış bir hekimdir. İlk dermatoloji kongresine katılarak o dönemde Osmanlı tıbbında frengi tedavisinde kullanılan alternatif tedavi yöntemini sunmuştur. Bu çalışmada tarihin ilk uluslararası dermatoloji kongresine katılan Türk hekim Hüseyin Hulki Bey'in konuşmaları araştırılmıştır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Hüseyin Hulki, dermatoloji, Paris Tıp Kongresi, tıp tarihi

Introduction

The First International Congresses of Dermatology

The day of the first Dermatology Congress coincided with another remarkable year in history-1889. The 100th Anniversary celebration of the French Revolution and the completion of the Eiffel Tower, the symbol of the country, were of particular importance to France. The First Dermatology Congress was organized under the chairmanship of Prof. Dr. Alfred Hardy in 1889^{1,2} and held in the museum part of Paris Saint-Louis Hospital ("Musée des Moulages") between 5-10

August³. There is detailed information in the congressional book, which was first published French in 1890. In this work, the participants are listed in alphabetical order, with 10 delegates from different countries and 212 participants. The participants' country of origin was also listed. Hüseyin Hulki Bey was included in the participants section as "Houlky Bey" and his country of origin as "İstanbul (Constantinople)". On page 256 of the printed congressional book, the speech text is "Syphilis observée a Constantinople; effets des différentes préparations hydrargyriques administrée par la méthode hypodermique (intra-musculaire)"⁴. A certificate

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of participation was prepared for Hüseyin Hulki Bey, who was then sent to the medical congress held in Paris in 1889⁵. As a reward for his participation in this congress and his contributions, the Ottoman government awarded him the Ottoman Order of the fourth rank. Then, the document of the engagement was drawn up⁶. A delegation of 12 people from Istanbul attended the first Dermatology Congress in 1889 together with Hüseyin Hulki Bey. There were important scientists such as Ali Rıza Bey, Celal Muhtar, Zambako Pasha, and Von Durring in this committee^{4,7}. The full list of participants who went to the first dermatology congress from Istanbul is given in Table 1. Some participants attended the congress without making a presentation. The Congress participation language was French. Huseyin Hulki Bey's picture is Figure 1. Figure 2 is a visual of the presentation made by Hüseyin Hulki Bey.

Materials and Methods

For the purpose of this study, the history of the first dermatology congress was traced. Congress archives and congress-related literature and data were collected from Pubmed, Web of Science, and Scopus databases. The congress "Congrès international de dermatologie et de syphiligraphie tenu à Paris en 1889", chaired by Alfred Hardy, was the first dermatology congress in history. Congress documents were accessed from "https://archive.org/details/congrsinternat00inteuoft" Congress full text book is Figure 3. In particular, Dr. Hüseyin Hulki, who had degrees in the field of dermatology and presented a new treatment method for syphilis, was examined.

Who is Hüseyin Hulki Bey?

Hüseyin Hulki Bey was born on 4 August 1862 and died on 19 May 1894 at age 32. During his short life, he took part in the Ottoman State services. There is no information in the literature regarding the cause of death. In 1890, he went to Robert Koch to learn about tuberculosis bacillus⁸. Hüseyin Hulki Bey is also a civil servant who graduated from the School of Medicine. In addition to Turkish, he was fluent in French, Greek, Persian, and Arabic. He received his medical diploma number 997 on May 8, 1884. Then, he won the competition exam opened on April 21, 1885 and became the Menafi-ül âza Assistant Professor of Physiology at the School of Medicine. Eventually, due

Table 1. Participants from İstanbul
Participants from İstanbul to the First Dermatology Congress (1889, Paris)
Ali Rıza Bey
Beretta
Delacour
Celal Muhtar
Von Durring Pacha
EuthBoule
Huseyin Hulki Bey
Mahe
Mavrogeny Pacha
Pechedimaldjy Pacha
Violi
Zambako Pacha

to his specialization in skin diseases, he became Emraz-ı Dervish and Zühreviye Muallim Sanisi, that is, Professor of Dermatology on March 29, 1891⁹. Doctor Huseyin Hulki Bey also struggled with syphilis during these years. He informed the provinces about the tools and equipment used with syphilis¹⁰. Hüseyin Hulki Bey attended the first Dermatology



Figure 1. Huseyin Hulki Bey

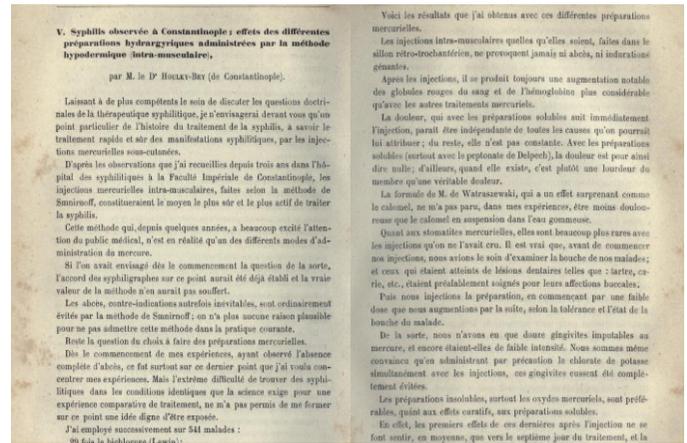


Figure 2. Huseyin Hulki Bey's speech

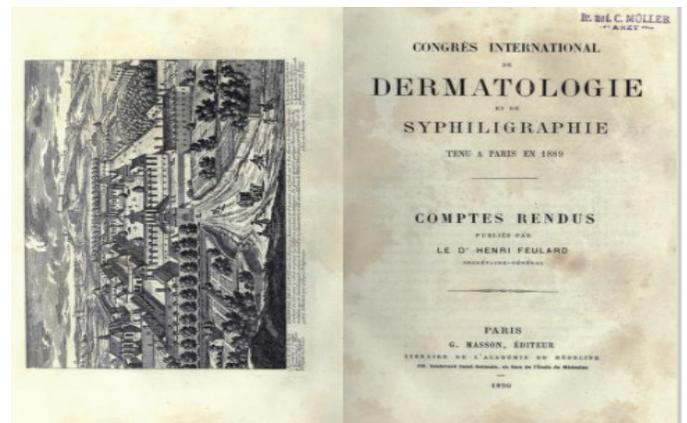


Figure 3. Congress full text book

Congress in 1889 in Paris, as well as the conference held in Vienna on August 29, 1892, three years later. Prof. Moritz Kaposi also participated in the second International Dermatology Congress. He provided the first information to Europe about leprosy in Türkiye^{2,7}.

Congressional Speech

At the first Dermatology congress, the full text of the speech titled "V. Syphilis Observation in Istanbul in Terms of the Effects of Different Hydrargyric Preparations Applied with the Hypodermic (Intramuscular) Method" by Hüseyin Hulki is as follows;⁴

"Leaving more competently to discuss the doctrinal questions of the treatment of syphilis, I will not consider before you a particular point in the history of the treatment of syphilis, namely the rapid and definitive treatment of syphilitic manifestations, for example, subcutaneous injections of mercury. According to the observations I collected over three years at the syphilis hospital at the Imperial Faculty of İstanbul, intramuscular injections of mercury according to the Smirnoff method will constitute the safest and most active way to treat syphilis. This method, which has attracted the attention of the medical community in recent years, is actually only one of the different application forms of mercury. If the problem had been thought through from the beginning, the consensus of the syphilographers on this point would have already been established, and the true value of the method would not have been impaired. Contraindicated abscesses that were previously unavoidable are generally avoided by the Smirnoff method; In current practice there is no longer any reasonable reason not to accept this method. There remains the question of choosing to make mercury preparations.

After observing the complete absence of abscess from the very beginning of my experiments, I wanted to focus my experiments specifically on this last point. But the extreme difficulty of finding syphilis under the same conditions that science requires for a comparative therapeutic trial did not allow me to form an opinion worth revealing at this point. I used repeatedly in 541 patients: 29 solids bichloride (Lewin), 184-Delpech peptonate, 155 calomel gummy suspended in water, 73- Red oxide, 87- Yellow oxide, by Watraszewsky 3- Lang's gray fat is 328 times the total insoluble salts and soluble 213 times that of salts. Here are my results with these different mercury preparations.

Any intramuscular injection in the retro-trochanteric groove will never cause abscesses or uncomfortable indurations. After injections, there is always a noticeable increase in red blood cells and hemoglobin, which is more than with other mercury treatments. With soluble preparations, the pain immediately following injection appears to be independent of any cause attributable to it; moreover, it is not fixed. In soluble preparations (especially with Delpech peptonate), pain is almost zero; also, when it exists, it is a heaviness in the limb rather than a real pain. With the surprising effect of calomel, M. de Watraszewski's formula appeared to me no less painful in my experiments than calomel suspended in gummy water.

As for mercury stomatitis, it is much rarer with injections than previously thought. It is true that we take care to examine the mouths of our patients before starting our injections; and those suffering from dental lesions: tartar caries.etc. They had previously been treated for oral ailments. We then injected the preparation, starting with a low dose which we then increased, depending on the condition and tolerance of the patient's mouth.

As a result, we had only twelve gingivitis attributable to mercury, and yet these were of low intensity. We even believe that this gingivitis can be completely prevented by administering potassium chlorate at the same time as injections as a precaution. Insoluble preparations, especially mercuric oxides, are practically preferred over soluble preparations. In fact, the first effects of the latter after the injection, on average, are not felt until the seventh day of treatment, and the complete disappearance of syphilitic manifestations, on average, does not occur until the thirty-first day. With insoluble preparations, the first effects of treatment are felt around the fourth day, and complete cessation of morbid symptoms is achieved in the species on an average of eighteen days. Lang's gray oil seemed to me no better than oxides and calomel suspended in gummy water; it is true that we are not sure that the preparation we use is pharmaceutically well made. Often, injections of mercury eliminate all secondary and second-tertiary manifestations of syphilis without the need to resort to other local or general methods of treatment.

While I cannot express any opinion of the value of Professor Lewin and Kopp's statistics on the rarity of relapses after injections, nor can I draw any positive arguments in support, Professor Scarenzio's overly optimistic view on this matter, as all the facts I have the honor of putting forth, is the paradox of the method. I believe I can at least draw the following conclusions about its value:

1. Due to the direct and faster absorption of mercury in contact with tissues, intramuscular injections of hydrargyric preparations are a safe and active method. They should be preferred over all other mercury application modes used so far.
2. They avoid the disadvantages of all other methods (gastrointestinal disturbances, irritative mercury dermatitis, etc.).
3. They allow the amount of absorbed drug to be measured mathematically.
4. It has no special contraindications. Cachexia and diabetes mellitus, which are considered contraindications for this method, are also contraindicated for all other methods of mercury administration. We already know that the pain caused by insoluble salts is compensated by their more energetic effects. In my opinion, knowing exactly all the properties of each preparation will constitute the necessity of science on this subject for the time being.

Therefore, in closing, I would like to express my wish: Those who wish to deal further with this interesting question regarding syphilitic therapy, please direct their experiments to the comparative study of the effects of different hydroargic preparations."

Discussion

Hüseyin Hulki Bey evaluated the method of the intramuscular injection of mercury, which was previously used in the treatment of syphilis, instead of subcutaneous injection. From a historical perspective, mercury was tried in different ways in the treatment of syphilis until Penicillin was discovered. Hüseyin Hulki Bey stated that intramuscular injection of mercury would cause fewer side effects than other methods. In this regard, Hutchinson, one of the important authors in the treatment of syphilis, stated that syphilis could be suppressed with mercury.¹¹

In 1863, the parenteral route was recommended as the preferred method of intramuscular sublimated injections by prestigious authors such as Moritz Kaposi (1837-1902), the leading European

dermatologists of the time, and Ferdinand Ritter Hebra (1816), founder of the Vienna School of Dermatology. Although the intravenous route was used less frequently than the intramuscular route, it was very active on the basis of mercury-cyanide. Regarding the intraspinal tract, it was an exceptional method that could be used in the neurologic situation. It has been reported that the hypodermic tract was abandoned soon after, as it was very painful and produced inflammatory nodules. He was also the chairman of the 2nd International Dermatology Congress held in Vienna in 1892. Unlike Sir Jonathan Hutchinson, who was the chairman of the 3rd International Congress of Dermatology held in London in 1896 with Moritz Kaposi, in 1863, Hüseyin Hulki shared his own method and observation, unlike the suggestions of subcutaneous mercury injection in 1863. We understand that this view is accepted by Kaposi's statement that his own treatment methods are more painful and side-effective.¹²

The method of intramuscular mercury injection, which was a different and innovative method for that time, which Hüseyin Hulki Bey included in his speech, is no longer used today. Once penicillin was discovered by Alexander Fleming in London in 1928, it has been used in the treatment of many diseases. The most widely known of these is the treatment of syphilis. Penicillin has been widely used in the treatment of syphilis since 1943¹³.

Conclusion

Dr. Hüseyin Hulki Bey is a physician who has contributed to the history of world medicine as well as to the history of Turkish medicine. He produced many works and worked on behalf of his state. He went to various foreign countries as an officer and exchanged ideas with the important scientists of the time. He participated in both the first and the second International Dermatology Congress and made presentations at each. As these notes on the history of medicine are examined, their value will be understood more. It is important to note that scientists gave significant support to the importance to scientific exploration and study in the 19th century. Hüseyin Hulki Bey, who desired to make scientific contributions to dermatological medicine and

who accomplished that very goal in his short life, is still only a note in itself in the history of medicine.

Ethics

Peer-review: Internally peer-reviewed.

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