



## Study of recommended procedure of low back cauterization in the perspective of Abū al-Qāsim al-Zahrāwī and Şerefeddin Sabuncuoğlu

Sobhan Ghezloo<sup>a</sup>, Mohammad Sadr<sup>b\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of History of Medicine, School of Persian Medicine, Tehran University of Medical Science, Tehran, Iran

<sup>b</sup>Department of History of Medicine, Faculty of Persian Medicine, Iran University of Medical Science, Tehran, Iran

### Abstract

Cauterization is a surgical technique that has been used for various treatments throughout Islamic period. Many Muslim physicians, like Rhazes, Avicenna, Abū al-Qāsim al-Zahrāwī, and Şerefeddin Sabuncuoğlu, mentioned the use of cauterization for various medical treatments and described its procedure. For example, low back pain is one of the most common types of pain that cauterization has been used to treat, and it has been described in the works of various scholars in the Islamic period. One of the most complete explanations of the process of cauterization has been described by Al-Zahrāwī in the 30<sup>th</sup> chapter of the book *Al-Tasrif Liman 'Ajaz 'Aan al-Taleef*. In the first part of the 30<sup>th</sup> chapter of *Al-Tasrif*, which contains information related to surgery, he describes the procedure of cauterization in 56 sub-chapters. Şerefeddin Sabuncuoğlu is a Turkish physician of the 9<sup>th</sup> century AH in the Ottoman Empire, who is generally known for his surgical book *Cerrâhiyyetü'l-Hâniyye*. This work is considered to be one of the first illustrated and colored books of surgery in the Turkish language, although some researchers believe that *Cerrâhiyyetü'l-Hâniyye* is only a translation of *Al-Tasrif*. Al-Zahrāwī and Sabuncuoğlu used the same segmentation in describing the operation of cauterization for the lower back and described a similar method for this procedure, which, considering the time precedence of writing the book of *Al-Tasrif*, can be a valid reason for Sabuncuoğlu's benefit from the book of *Al-Tasrif* and translating it. This research has investigated the method of cauterization recommended by Abū al-Qāsim al-Zahrāwī and compared it with the method of cauterization suggested by Şerefeddin Sabuncuoğlu for the treatment of back pain.

**Keywords:** Cautery; Surgery; Back pain; Al-Zahrāwī; Şerefeddin Sabuncuoğlu

Corresponding Author: [sadr.m@iums.ac.ir](mailto:sadr.m@iums.ac.ir)