

## DEVELOPMENT OF PEDIATRIC SURGERY IN BULGARIA

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### РАЗВИТИЕ НА ДЕТСКАТА ХИРУРГИЯ В БЪЛГАРИЯ

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**Резюме:** Дълго време е било необходимо на лекарите да осъзнаят, че детският организъм има различна физиология и патология от възрастния, а не с просто негов умален модел. В съответствие на това и детската хирургия е започнала своето развитие като част от общата хирургия. С напредването на хирургичната наука и практика тя се обособява като отделна специалност.

Проф. Асен Петров в 1901 г. отделя детска стая, но изминава половин век, за да се стигне до създаването на първото детско хирургично отделение през 1952 г., завеждано от общия хирург Б. Рапонски към тогавашния Институт за спешна медицина "Н.И.Пирогов". Проф. Д. Арнаудов създава първата Детска клиника през 1958 г. с две хирургични отделения, която през 1968 г. прераства в Катедра по детска хирургия към Научния институт по педиатрия към МА, базирана в РНПИСМП "Ц.И.Пирогов". Ръководител на Първа клиника е доц. И. Иванчев, а на втора - доц. А. Димитров. През 1952 г. е създадено първото детско отделение в Пловдив, което през 1957 г. прераства в детска хирургична клиника към Катедрата по пропедевтика на хирургичните болести, ръководена от проф. А. Червеняков, а по-късно от проф. Ю. Тошев. Към Катедрата по пропедевтика на хирургичните болести във Варна, с ръководител проф. П. Алтънков през 1970 г. е създадена клиника по детска хирургия със завеждащ д-р М. Генова. През 1975 г. към Първостепенна окръжна болница "Стоян Киркович" във Варна е създаден сектор по детска хирургия, ръководен от д-р Д. Тренчев. През 1960 г. е проведен първия специализиран курс по детска хирургия и оттогава се провежда редовно обучение на висококвалифицирани специалисти. Изтъкнати специалисти по обща хирургия, работили и развивали детската хирургия, са проф. К. Стоянов, гл. ас. Г. Бранков, проф. Д. Арнаудов, проф. Г. Капитанов, проф. Б. Басв, проф. Ю. Тошев.

В момента в България съществуват два национални университетски центъра по детска хирургия - в София и Пловдив, както и три клиники по детска хирургия към Медицинските университети във Варна, Плевен и Стара Загора и отделения по детска хирургия в областните градове.

За този кратък период детската хирургия в България е достигнала високо ниво по отношение лечебната, научна и преподавателска дейност.

Pediatric surgery integrates the characteristic features of surgery and pediatrics in their scientific and clinical aspects. Its development follows naturally the development of medicine as a part of the social life in Bulgaria.

In the period till and a little after The Liberation patients are treated equally no matter children or adults. Later physicians realize that a child is not just a small copy of the adult, but a changing organism, with physiology, pathology and specific therapy,

corresponding to the constant process of growth and improvement of functions. The beginning of pediatrics as a separate medical specialty is connected to the name of Prof. Stefan Vatev, considered as the founder of pediatric health care in Bulgaria. The pediatric ward at the internal clinic of Aleksandrovska Hospital is the first ward for medical aid for children. In 1900 it was organized as an independent pediatric ward headed by Prof. Dr. St. Vatev. In 1901 the surgeon Asen Petrov separates a children's room, but it is too early to speak of pediatric surgery.

Till the mid-fifties of the 20-th century

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which thrived and in 1968 there were 132 beds and 6 units – neonatal and infant surgery, thoracic surgery, urology, trauma-care, emergency abdominal surgery and anesthesiology and intensive care. In 1972 the clinic was transformed in the first in Bulgaria Chair of Pediatric Surgery, initially at ISRD, later at RNPISMP “N.I.Pirogov”, consisting of two clinics. In the years 1972 – 1978 it was being directed by Prof. D. Arnaudov. Head of First clinic was Assoc. Prof. Ivan Ivanchev, and head of the Second clinic – Assoc. Prof. Asen Dimitrov. After the renovation of the building in 1968, the operation room was transformed into Third clinic of anesthesiology and intensive care, directed by Assoc. Prof. Maria Bojcheva. In 1971 the professors at The Chair and the associated coworkers and ordinate doctors at the hospital integrated as Department of Pediatric Surgery with three clinics, headed by Prof. Arnaudov. From 1981 to 1991 chief was Prof. Dr. Ivan Ivanchev. After his retirement chief of The Department was Prof. Angel Boyanov, and since the year 2000 – Prof. Dr. Maria Mihova. Presently chief of the department is Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ognjan Brankov who is also head of Second clinic. First clinic is directed by Assoc. Prof. Georgi Trifonov, and Third clinic – by Assoc. Prof. Nadejda Gavrilova.

The year of 1952 witnessed the establishment not only of the pediatric surgical ward at ISPQD, but also at the clinic of propedeutics of surgical diseases at The Medical University in Sofia. It occupied 30 of 120 beds of the clinic. Chief of the ward was Dr. Baju Baev (Prof. at the Chair since 1964), who was one of the many high-qualified general surgeons, working in the area of pediatric surgery. His scientific interests comprised of thyreotoxic goiter and numerous surgical diseases in children – acute peritonitis, hypertrophic stenosis of the pylorus, Meckel’s diverticulum, etc.

“Paisii Hilendarski” University in Plovdiv was founded in 1945. In 1952 was founded the first in Bulgaria pediatric surgery ward by Dr. Y. Toshev at the Chair of Surgical Diseases at The High Medical Institute – Plovdiv, which occupied about one third of the beds of the clinic. Reasonably Yurii

Toshev may be considered as one of the founders of pediatric surgery in Bulgaria, who had educated a lot of high-qualified pediatric surgeons. He had specialized in Czechoslovakia (1951-1952) under the direction of the famous Czech surgeon Prof. Kafka. He was certified for general (1946) and pediatric (1952) surgery. He was chief of The Chair from 1955 to 1972. He is author of more than 50 articles and reports in the field of abdominal (large intestine diseases, pancreas diseases) and pediatric surgery. 18 of his works are connected with the neonatal surgery. After his retirement, the clinic was directed by Assoc. Prof. V. Tashev (1972-1984) and since 1984 – by Assoc. Prof. N. Chatalbashev. Parts of the clinic are the intensive care unit and head and face and plastic surgery unit, directed by Assoc. Prof. Y. Anastasov.

The Medical University in Varna was established in 1960. In 1970 was founded the clinic of pediatric surgery at the Chair of propedeutics of surgical diseases by Prof. Dr. P. Altunkov, chief of the Chair. 4 of his more than 170 scientific articles concerning pediatric surgery. He offered a classification of the congenital anomalies of the liver.

The first head of the clinic was Assoc. Prof. Dr. M. Genova-Altunkova. She owned diplomas for general (1954) and pediatric (1964) surgery and was author of over 120 works and a textbook of pediatric surgery. Her interests were in congenital anomalies of digestive system, neonatal surgery, some problems in burns in children, emergency surgery in children. She was Chairman of the Department of pediatric surgery at The Scientific Association of Surgeons in Varna. She was at the head of the clinic till 1989 when her place was taken by Assoc. Prof. Dr. A. Shejtanov who had specialized in general and pediatric surgery.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of March in 1975 at the Surgical ward at Major County Hospital “Stojan Kirkovich” in St. Zagora was established a pediatric surgery unit with 15 beds, headed by Dr. D. Trenchev, who graduated in 1961 The High Medical Institute in Plovdiv. Since the 1<sup>st</sup> of June in 1979 the units was transformed into a ward by the then chief Dr. R. Rashev. After Dr. Trenchev had retired in

1991, director became Dr. N. Raichkov – general and pediatric surgeon. In 1982 The High Medical Institute in Stara Zagora opened gates and in 1995 an independent university hospital was built. First surgical clinic at the hospital includes pediatric surgery ward with 15 beds where the assistants Dr. S. Palijska and Dr. K. Kalinova (general and pediatric surgeon) work.

The University in Pleven was founded in 1974. Prof. Karamishev lead the establishment of the pediatric surgical ward. He worked in the area of general surgery, mainly echinococcosis and in part of his 10 works problems of hydatid disease in children were discussed. His students and followers were Dr. B. Angelov and Dr. C. Marinova. The surgical Department at the university includes 4 units – abdominal-thoracic, pediatric, cardiovascular surgery and urology. Chief of the department is Assoc. Prof. B. Ninov, certified for general and pediatric surgery and his dissertation treats relaparotomias after appendectomy in children.

The pediatric surgical ward at the hospital in Russe is worth being mentioned for it was the first of this kind outside a university hospital. It originated from a pediatric surgical consulting room, headed by Dr. M. Mihajlov from 1960 to 1962 when it was transformed into a ward, the same chief till 1964. Dr. M. Durvenjashka directed the ward till 1983. She contributed to the expansion of the surgical procedures performed in children, developed the surgical treatment of congenital anomalies. After her retirement consecutively chiefs were Dr. M. Minkov (till 1990) and Dr. P. Hadjimitshev.

Conditionally the development of

pediatric surgery in Bulgaria may be divided into three periods, which coincide with the different historical periods of the country. The first period, till the mid-fifties, was the time when it was still “the unborn child” of general surgery. Pediatric surgery had been practiced by general surgeons who however had rich medical and surgical experience and had set the foundations of the new specialty in their practical and scientific work. The second period comprises the time till the 70-ties of the past century, when the newly formed specialty began to develop independently but there was a lot to be learned about the surgery in children and the organization of pediatric surgery – elective and emergency. The third period nowadays is still proceeding. Today pediatric surgery is a differentiated surgical specialty with an object, specific pathology and methods of treatment of its own. It is also a scientific field of investigations as well as a discipline professed to students and postgraduate doctors. Today it is even divided into different pediatric surgical specialties – pediatric trauma, pediatric urology, pediatric cardiovascular surgery.

The history of pediatric surgery in Bulgaria is comparatively short – half of a century. But for this short time a long way has been passed. The speed of development is extremely rapid and nowadays it is parallel to the development of general and pediatric surgery world-wide. There are two National Centers for Pediatric Surgery and three pediatric surgical clinics at the five Medical Universities as well as many pediatric surgical units at non-university hospitals in different cities in the country .

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