# A history of thoracic surgery

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# **Thoracotomy: A History and Overview**

# **History of Thoracotomy**

Thoracotomy, a surgical procedure to access the chest cavity, has a long and fascinating history. The earliest recorded thoracotomies were performed in ancient Egypt around 3000 BC. However, it was not until the 18th century that the procedure became more standardized.

## **First Pneumonectomy**

In 1895, German surgeon Paul Friedrich performed the first successful pneumonectomy, the surgical removal of a lung. This groundbreaking achievement paved the way for other thoracic surgeries.

# **Thoracic Surgery**

Thoracic surgery is a specialized field that focuses on the surgical treatment of conditions affecting the chest cavity, including the lungs, heart, esophagus, and pleura. It encompasses both open surgical procedures like thoracotomy and minimally invasive techniques like thoracoscopy.

#### Thoracoscopy

Thoracoscopy, also known as video-assisted thoracic surgery (VATS), involves inserting a small camera and surgical instruments into the chest cavity through small incisions. This less invasive approach allows for more precise and accurate procedures with shorter recovery times.

# Is Thoracotomy a Thoracic Surgery?

Yes, thoracotomy is a type of thoracic surgery that involves opening the chest cavity to access and treat its internal structures.

# **First Surgery Inventor**

The first recorded surgery was performed by Sushruta, an Indian physician known as the "father of surgery," around 600 BC.

# First Lung Surgery

The first lung surgery is attributed to Hippocrates, the "father of Western medicine," around 400 BC. He performed a procedure to drain pleural fluid from the chest.

### **Thoracic Surgeon**

A thoracic surgeon is a physician who specializes in thoracic surgery. They are also known as chest surgeons or cardiothoracic surgeons.

# **Most Common Thoracic Surgery**

The most common thoracic surgery performed in the US is lung resection, the surgical removal of a portion or all of a lung.

# **Recent Advances in Thoracic Surgery**

Minimally invasive techniques like VATS and robotic surgery have revolutionized thoracic surgery, enabling more precise and less invasive procedures.

#### **Indications for Thoracic Surgery**

Thoracic surgery is indicated for a variety of conditions, including lung cancer, lung volume reduction, esophageal disease, heart disease, and chest trauma.

### Benefits of Seeing a Thoracic Surgeon

Thoracic surgeons are highly skilled and experienced in treating a wide range of chest conditions. They can provide expert diagnosis, personalized treatment plans, and comprehensive care.

# **History of Chest Tube Drainage**

Chest tube drainage is a procedure used to remove fluid or air from the chest cavity. It has been used for centuries, with the first recorded use in 1667.

# **Terminology**

- Thoracotomy: Surgical opening of the chest cavity
- Thoracostomy: Surgical creation of an opening in the chest wall for access or drainage
- Thoracoscopy: Minimally invasive procedure using a camera to visualize the chest cavity

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