

= Gabor B. Racz =

Gábor Béla Rác (born 1937) , is a board @-@ certified anesthesiologist and professor emeritus at Texas Tech University Health Science Center (TTUHSC) in Lubbock , Texas , where he is also Chairman Emeritus of the Department of Anesthesiology and Co @-@ Director of Pain Services . He has worked in the field of chronic back pain and complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS) .

In 1982 , he designed the Racz catheter , a flexible , spring @-@ wound catheter with a small fluoroscopic probe . In 1989 , he developed epidural lysis of adhesions , sometimes referred to as percutaneous adhesiolysis , or simply the Racz procedure . It is a minimally invasive , percutaneous intervention for treating chronic spinal pain often due to scarring after post lumbar surgery syndrome , sometimes called failed back surgery , and also low back and radicular pain from spinal stenosis , a disease of aging . The procedure is somewhat similar to an epidural and is used when conventional methods have failed . The Racz procedure may employ the use of a wire @-@ bound catheter to mechanically break @-@ up or dissolve scar tissue , also called epidural adhesions or fibrosis , which have formed around the nerve roots , and allows for local anesthetics , saline and steroids to be injected into the affected area .

Racz was born in Hungary and , as a young man , had aspirations to become a medical doctor . He was a second @-@ year medical student in November 1956 when he was forced to flee Hungary after the Soviets invaded Budapest in response to the Hungarian Revolution . He eventually arrived in England and resumed his education . He graduated from the University of Liverpool School of Medicine , and worked in the UK until 1963 at which time he moved to the United States . He completed his anesthesiology residency at SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse , New York . He also worked as an associate attending anesthesiologist and respiratory consultant for other hospitals including the Veterans Administration Hospital , and the UHS Chenango Memorial Hospital in Norwich , New York before moving to Lubbock , Texas where he became the first Chairman of Anesthesiology for the then @-@ new Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) . Racz is also one of the founders of the World Institute of Pain .

= = Early life and education = =

Racz was born in Hungary to parents with a financially meager background which he attributed in part to his family 's resistance to join the Communist party . He attended Semmelweis University Medical School , and it was during his second year there that the Hungarian Revolution of 1956 had begun . After seeing hundreds of injured people , he volunteered to help at the hospital . He said he received a signed directive to drive a truck and deliver sugar to the medical school clinics which he believed motivated the Hungarian Secret Police to seek him out for questioning . He also recalled a shooting incident where a bullet missed his head by " a few inches " .

On November 27 , 1956 , he fled from Budapest to Austria with his future wife Enid , his sister , brother @-@ in @-@ law , and a few others after the Soviets invaded the city . He had no prior intention to leave Hungary until he learned from his mother that the Hungarian Secret Police were looking for him . Racz said if they found him , " That would have meant the end of my dreams to become a doctor . Perhaps I would have ended up in prison . Not that I had done anything but many other people ended up in prison following 1956 without committing any crime . " He arrived in the Austrian town of Eisenstadt where buses were waiting to take refugees to their new homes . Racz chose the bus to England , and he along with his family and other members of his group were transported to a military base in the Midlands .

In 1957 , as a former Hungarian medical student , Racz received a scholarship to attend second @-@ year medical school in Liverpool , England . In 1962 , he graduated from the University of Liverpool School of Medicine with Bachelor of Medicine (M.B.) and Bachelor of Surgery (Ch.B) degrees . Ian McWhinney and his wife helped Racz get his start as a doctor by providing him with rent @-@ free lodging so he could finish his education . He said their generosity became a lifelong example in that " one must study and pass on knowledge and help the next generation . " Racz later served as house surgeon and physician at the Royal Southern Hospital in Liverpool .

= = Career in the United States = =

In 1963 , Racz moved to the United States for an anesthesiology residency at SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse , New York . Upon completion , he worked in several positions at SUNY , including associate attending anesthesiologist and respiratory consultant in the neurological head injury unit as well as a consultant for the Veterans Administration Hospital , and the UHS Chenango Memorial Hospital in Norwich , New York .

In 1977 , Racz joined the then @-@ new Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) and was designated as the Center 's first Chairman of Anesthesiology . He held that position until March 1 , 1999 . His work from 1977 to 2006 not only included treating patients , he also served as acting director of pain services at TTUHSC , and oversaw the expansion of operations and future development of the Messer @-@ Racz International Pain Center named in recognition of Racz 's work and the Messer family 's financial contributions . In 2015 , Racz held the designation of Professor and Chairman Emeritus , Director of Pain Services for Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center .

Throughout his career , Racz has also conducted research and co @-@ authored articles with other experts in pain management to improve diagnosis and treatment of complex regional pain syndromes (CRPS) , a long @-@ term disorder of the nervous system which is a challenging pain problem that is often misunderstood and misdiagnosed .

= = = Recognition and awards = = =

In 1996 , Racz was the first recipient of the Grover E. Murray Professorship , TTUHSC 's highest award . In December 1998 , the University Medical Center named him to a \$ 1 million endowed chair in recognition of his work at TTUHSC and the University Medical Center . In 2004 , he received the Lifetime Achievement Award presented by the American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians . The New York / New Jersey Societies of Interventional Pain Physicians awarded Racz a lifetime achievement award in October , 2012 .

= = Racz catheter and procedure = =

Racz 's work with nerve stimulators , spinal cord stimulators , radiofrequency thermocoagulation , and a wide range of other pain management procedures is being used in interventional pain practices throughout the world . He developed new designs in medical equipment and devices .

In 1982 , Racz designed the Racz catheter , a flexible , spring @-@ wound catheter with a small fluoroscopic probe . In 1989 , he developed epidural lysis of adhesions , a minimally invasive , percutaneous procedure also known as the " Racz procedure " , which is somewhat similar to an epidural . It is used to treat patients with chronic low back pain due to post lumbar surgery syndrome , sometimes called failed back surgery , which involves scar tissue that has formed around the nerve root . It is also used to treat protruding or herniated disks , fractures , degeneration or radicular pain from spinal stenosis , a disease of aging .

The Racz procedure employs a wire @-@ bound or spring loaded catheter to mechanically break @-@ up or dissolve scar tissue , also called epidural adhesions or fibroids , that have formed around the nerve roots , and allows for local anesthetics , saline and steroids to be injected into the affected area . This procedure was assigned a Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code in 2000 .

= = Selected works = =

Racz has published in many forms . Among his works are :

Racz G. , 1985 : Capnography In The Operating Room : An Introductory Directory. by May , Wr . , J. E. Heavner , D. Mcwhorter And G. Racz . Vi 58p . Raven Press Books , Ltd : New York , N.Y. ,

Usa . Illus . Paper . Vi 58p

Racz , Gabor B. 1989 Techniques of Neurolysis Gabor Racz (Ed .) , ISBN 978 @-@ 1 @-@ 4899 @-@ 6723 @-@ 7 (Print) 978 @-@ 1 @-@ 4899 @-@ 6721 @-@ 3 (Online) , Current Management of Pain , Vol . 4 , Springer U.S.

Racz , Gabor B. , (Ed .) , (2012) Epidural Lysis of Adhesions and Percutaneous Neuroplasty , Pain Management : Current Issues and Opinions , by Gabor B. Racz , Miles R. Day , James E. Heavner , Jeffrey P. Smith , Jared Scott , Carl E. Noe , Laslo Nagy and Hana Ilner . ISBN 978 @-@ 953 @-@ 307 @-@ 813 @-@ 7 , InTech , DOI : 10 @.@ 5772 / 39173 .