

Abu al-Qasim Khalaf ibn al-Abbas al-Zahrawi

The Inventor of Over 200 Surgical Tools



Córdoba, Umayyad Caliphate
c. 936–1013 CE

Pioneer of Operative Surgery

Al-Zahrawi designed over 200 surgical instruments—including scalpels, forceps, surgical needles, and retractors—that laid the foundation for modern operating rooms. He pioneered the use of catgut for internal sutures, discovering that it dissolves naturally in the body. His 30-volume medical encyclopedia, *Al-Tasrif*, served as Europe's primary surgical manual for over 500 years.