

Publications From Turkey

To The Editor:

I have a comment on a recent article published in Turkish Neurosurgery (Tekkök İH, Açıkgöz B; Publications from Turkey in European and American neurosurgical journals. A review of the facts. *Türk Neurosurg* 4:106-111, 1994). The authors state that "the history of neurosurgery in Turkey goes back to as early as 1951. That was when Dr. Berkay returned from USA to set up a neurosurgery department at İstanbul Unuversity." This statement is incorrect or at least deficient, and neglects detailed information conveyed by Erbenği A (1). A short quotation from Erbenği's article will speak for itself:

"Dr. Hami Dilek (another student of Profesör Clovis [Vincent]) was trained in Paris between 1934 and 1937 and also started his neurosurgical career in the same operating room as Dr. Baydur in Bakırköy Psychiatric Hospital. He founded a new neurosurgical ward and his work was appreciated by both his patients and officials. This appreciation gave him the opportunity to convince the Ministry of Health to accept neurosurgery as an independent medical speciality in 1947. An independent department of neurosurgery was founded by him in 1948 in Haydarpaşa State Hospital Thus our speciality was officially recognised and Dr. Dilek should be accepted as the founder of modern neurosurgery in Turkey."

I would advise my colleagues to pay their utmost attention, and to make a complete review of the relevant material while preparing medical articles.

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1. Erbenği A. History and development of neurosurgery in Anatolia. Part two. *Türk Neurosurg* 3:41-47, 1993