

1908

1907-1909

Occipitocervical dissociation (OCD) or [atlantooccipital dislocation](#) (AOD) was first described by Blackwood in [1908](#) and was considered quite rare as compared to another [cervical spine injury](#)

The first device for [stereotactic](#) surgery was described in detail in [1908](#) by British neuroscientist and surgeon Sir [Victor Horsley](#) and British physiologist [Robert Henry Clarke](#). This device, named the Horsley-Clarke apparatus, facilitated the study of the [cerebellum](#) in [animals](#) by enabling accurate electrolytic lesioning to be made in the brain. To ensure that a lesion would be introduced in the correct site, Horsley and Clarke created [atlases](#) containing pictures of the brains of the animals on which they experimented. Shortly thereafter, in [1918](#), the first stereotaxic apparatus for humans was designed by Canadian neurologist Aubrey Mussen. However, the first attempts at stereotaxic surgery in human subjects were not made until the 1940s; these attempts were pioneered by American neurologists [Ernest A. Spiegel](#) and [Henry T. Wycis](#). Since then, a number of modifications and refinements have been made to stereotaxic devices, [procedures](#), and atlases, and these advances have significantly improved the utility of [stereotaxy](#).

In [1908](#) the first successful lumbar [discectomy](#) was initiated and performed by the German neurologist [Heinrich Oppenheim](#) (1858-1919) and the surgeon [Fedor Krause](#) (1857-1937); however, neither recognized the true pathological condition of discogenic [nerve compression syndrome](#). With the landmark report in [The New England Journal of Medicine](#) in [1934](#), the two American surgeons [William Jason Mixter](#) (1880-1958) and [Joseph Seaton Barr](#) (1901-1963) finally clarified the pathomechanism of [lumbar disc herniation](#) and furthermore, propagated [discectomy](#) as the standard therapy.

Coats disease is an [idiopathic](#) ocular condition characterized by retinal [telangiectasia](#), aneurysms, and exudation.

George Coats first described it in [1908](#) as a unilateral condition with retinal exudation and [telangiectasia](#) in male children

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