

1921

1920-1922

The treatment of [colloid cysts](#) has evolved rapidly since the first successful excision of a colloid cyst via the [transcortical transventricular approach](#) by Walter Dandy in [1921](#) ¹⁾. This was followed closely by a [transcallosal approach](#) by Greenwood in [1949](#) ²⁾.

German physician Saemisch introduced compound lens magnification to medicine in [1876](#). In the early part of the 20th century, Carl Nylen, a 30-year-old Swedish otolaryngologist, inspired by Maier and Lion's observations of endolymph movement, conceived and built the world's first operative microscope. In [1921](#) he used his monocular microscope for humans for the first time in a case of chronic otitis media. Gunnar Holmgren, Nylen's chief at the Stockholm clinic, improved on Nylen's monocular design and attached a light, creating the first binocular surgical microscope in [1922](#). The original surgical microscopes were crude, usually requiring fixation to the bony structures of the skull ³⁾.

¹⁾

Dandy WE. Benign tumors of the third ventricle. In: Thomas CC, editor. Diagnosis and Treatment. Springfield, Baltimore, IL: 1933.

²⁾

Greenwood J., Jr Paraphysial cysts of the third ventricle; with report of eight cases. J Neurosurg. 1949;6:153-9.

³⁾

Kriss TC, Kriss VM: History of the operating microscope: from magnifying glass to microneurosurgery legacy. Neurosurgery 42:899-908, 1998

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