

1909 Allen Buckner Kanavel (1874-1938), a self-instructed innovator in brain, spine and peripheral nerve surgery, is first to describe the infranasal [transsphenoidal approach](#) to the [pituitary gland](#). With his colleague, urologist Victor Lespinasse, Kanavel attempts unsuccessfully to treat [hydrocephalus](#) in two infants by coagulating the [choroid plexus](#) through a [cystoscope](#) introduced into the [ventricular system](#).

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Last update: **2024/06/07 02:58**

