

# History of Medicine

## *Ibn-Sina, Abu-Ali Al-Husyn (AVICENNA) (980-1037)*

*Presented by Elyan A, MD\**

*\*Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Ain Shams University*



### **IBN-SINA, ABU-ALI AL-HUSYN (Latin = AVICENNA) (980-1037)**

Styled "Prince of Physicians" Ibn-Sina summed up the medical science of his day in an encyclopedic work entitled "Al-Qanon Fi-Tibb" (القانون في الطب) (the law of medicine) which, repeatedly rendered into Latin, influenced numberless generations of European medical students.

**ابن سينا (980-1037 م) و من ألقابه:**

الشيخ الرئيس – حجة الحق – شرف الملك – الحكيم الوزير – الدستور – حكيم الشرق و الغرب.

Ibn-Sina is one of the greatest physicians in history. His textbooks were taught all over the world from his time until the 1700's. In this article a brief summary of the contributions of Ibn-Sina to the science of Obstetrics and Gynecology is presented.

In volume III of the "Al-Qanon of medicine", the manuscript number (21), Avicenna described the uterus to be composed of inner – vascular and outer muscular layers. The Ligaments attached the uterus to bones, bladder and umbilicus. He described the gonads as two small rounded organs found on the sides of the uterus, each has its own passage to the uterus that transmits the ovum.

Avicenna believed that heavy menses may result in weakness, change of colour, lack of concentration and frequent abortion. If it is increased in amount or duration it could be physiological which needs no treatment because it is beneficial. It could be ameliorated by high protein diet and vinegar.

Avicenna believed that labour is the commonest cause of fissures in the perineum; they could be seen by the mirror, may result in bleeding after intercourse and dyspareunia.

Regarding leucorrhoea, Avicenna believed that the discharge is either exaggerated normal discharge or infected with bad odour (uterine infection).

Avicenna described hot tumours that may result from trauma, abortion, delivery or infection. The Signs and symptoms are nausea, vomiting, headache, fever, loss of appetite, loss of voice, black tongue, and sweating, treatment by venesection.

On the other hand, he described soft tumours to be an abscess. He added that the following symptoms could occur:

- Suprapubic and back pain.
- Constipation.
- Dysuria.