



James Hogarth Pringle and his time-honored maneuver

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Submitted May 05, 2024. Accepted for publication May 15, 2024. Published online May 24, 2024.

doi: 10.21037/hbsn-24-271

View this article at: <https://dx.doi.org/10.21037/hbsn-24-271>

The classical method to control blood loss during parenchymal transection of the liver is the Pringle maneuver. In his landmark article in the *Annals of Surgery* in 1908, James Hogarth Pringle occluded the afferent vessels to the liver by compressing the hepatoduodenal ligament between his thumb and index finger (1). He applied this maneuver in eight patients who required emergency laparotomy for major hemorrhage after severe liver trauma. Although he succeeded in controlling blood loss, the eight patients he described unfortunately all died. This outcome did not prevent the *Annals of Surgery* from publishing his report after which James Hogarth Pringle was ready to enter the ‘Hall of Fame’. Vascular inflow occlusion, applied in a continuous or intermittent fashion, became the mainstay technique for reducing blood loss during liver transection, and has remained so in the present era of laparoscopic and robotic liver resection (2).

The photograph shows Mr. Pringle—the surgeon with the moustache on the right—in the operating room of the Royal Infirmary in Glasgow at the beginning of the 20th century (*Figure 1*). He is operating with Sir William Macewen, at that time chief of the surgical department at the Royal Infirmary. James Hogarth Pringle was born in Australia in 1863 and graduated at the University of Edinburgh Medical School in 1885. He was appointed Lecturer in Surgery in 1899 at Margaret College in Glasgow in which he proved an early proponent of accepting female trainees in the clinic (3).



Figure 1 James Hogarth Pringle, the surgeon with the moustache standing on the right, operating with Sir William Macewen in the operating room of the Royal Infirmary in Glasgow (beginning 20th century).

Acknowledgments

Figure 1 is a photograph from collection of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow.

Funding: None.

Footnote

Provenance and Peer Review: This article was commissioned by the editorial office, *Hepatobiliary Surgery and Nutrition*. The article did not undergo external peer review.

Conflicts of Interest: The author has completed the ICMJE uniform disclosure form (available at <https://hbsn.amegrouppublishing.com/article/view/10.21037/hbsn-24-271/coif>). T.M.v.G. serves as an unpaid deputy Editor-in-Chief of *Hepatobiliary Surgery and Nutrition*. The author has no other conflicts of interest to declare.

Ethical Statement: The author is accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

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Cite this article as: van Gulik TM. James Hogarth Pringle and his time-honored maneuver. *HepatoBiliary Surg Nutr* 2024;13(3):391-392. doi: 10.21037/hbsn-24-271