



Abstract

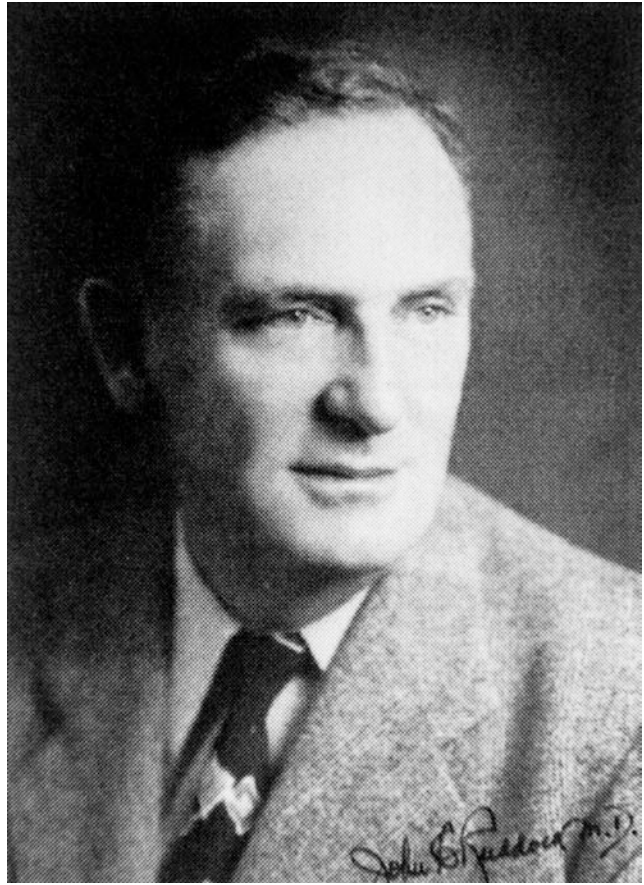
The contributions of Heinz Kalk in Germany and John Ruddock in the United States were seminal in the development of laparoscopic approaches to the biliary tract.

Keywords

Laparoscopy · Endoscopy · Endoscopic history



Heinz Kalk



John Ruddock

Heinz Kalk (1895–1973), Germany

Kalk [1] refined the laparoscopic system and, using local anesthesia, performed and published several thousand successful cases. Major indications were liver and pancreatic disease and intra-abdominal carcinomas, as well as biopsies under visual control with coagulation of bleeders. He introduced the various degrees of laparoscopes. He published 2000 successful cases in 1951.

John Ruddock (1891–1964), USA

Ruddock [2] served with the US Army and was a Commander in the US Navy during World War II. After retirement as an internist, he became

interested in laparoscopy. He modified the telescope and the biopsy forceps. He published 2500 successful cases performed under local anesthesia with a standby anesthesiologist.

References

1. Kalk H, Bruhl, W: Leitfaden der laparoskopie und Gastroskopie. Stuttgart, Thieme, 1951.
2. Ruddock, JC: Peritoneoscopy: a critical clinical review. Surg Clin North Am 37:1249, 1957