"The hysterotomotokie or Caesarian birth" of Francois Rousset (Paris, 1581). The book of an imposter or that of a precursor.

(PMID:11624881)
In the year 1581, François Rousset, a Parisian physician published "L'hystérotomotokie ou enfantement césarien ...", suggesting for the first time a "laparotomy" with hysterotomy in the parturient who could not be confined in the ordinary way, this of course being done in the last resort. This surgical intervention was not usually performed until then before the woman's death. Rousset is the man
who gave this operation the name Caesarean section in memory of the supposed birth of Caesar. In support of this proposal, he
gathered ten observations, six of them in which he personally took part in without operating himself, as he was not a surgeon.
Moreover, he did endeavour, by use of reason as well as authoritative arguments, to produce evidence that this intervention was
actually feasible, saving sometimes the mother and child's lives while preserving the possibility of future pregnancy. The last part
of the book is devoted to a detailed and meticulous description of the intervention. This revolutionary proposal was coldly received and
vigourously opposed by the medical milieu, especially by Ambroise Paré. It was not more favoured in the course of the next two
centuries and Rousset was often considered as an impostor, his opposers considering this intervention as inevitably entailing death
and it success being miraculous. Those who approved were few and cautious and only exceptionnaly took heed of it. It is only in the
nineteenth century that Rousset's book was noticed and acknowledged. Written in French, it was essentially intended for surgeons
and won him the name of Father of the ceasarean section.

François Rousset's sixteenth-century treatise was the first known text to...

Europe PMC is a service of the Europe PMC Funders’ Group, in partnership with the European Bioinformatics Institute; and in cooperation with the National Center for Biotechnology Information at the U.S. National Library of Medicine (NCBI/NLM). It includes content provided to the PMC International archive by participating publishers.

Contact Us | Privacy | Terms of Use | Copyright | Accessibility