

## INTRODUCTION

The necessity for thoracoscopy became apparent with the adhesions that limited the success of **Forlanini's** introduction in **1882** of artificial pneumothorax in the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis . The first thoracoscopy , using a modified cystoscope , was performed by **H.C.Jacopaeus**, a professor of medicine , not surgery , in **Stockholm** , in **1910** (**Braimbridge, 1993**).

In **1910** **Hans Christian Jacobeus**, after learning the intracavitary techniques from **Kelling** introduced the technique of pleuroscopy or thoracoscopy . **Jacobeus** was a professor of internal medicine working in a tuberculosis sanitarium in **Sweden**. Using a local anesthetic and the instrumentation developed by **Nitze** and **Jacobeus** performed the thoracoscopic lysis of pleural adhesions and drainage as an adjunct to collapse therapy. In **1921**, **Jacobeus** reported an extensive experience with thoracoscopy in the diagnosis of pulmonary and pleural tumors. Thoracoscopic procedures were widely performed in **Europe** during the **1920s**, and in **1928**, **Cova** published a color atlas of thoracoscopically diagnosed intrathoracic lesions(**Webb, 1992**).

In the 1950s the administration of antibiotic therapy for tuberculosis largely replaced the use of thoracoscopy in the treatment of this disease. Over the next 20 years thoracoscopy evolved into a diagnostic procedure in the management of pleural effusions as well as primary and metastatic pleural tumors(**Das, 2000**).

Despite its use in **Europe**, thoracoscopy was not widely used in the **United States** until the **1970s**, when acceptance of the procedure followed several technical developments. The introduction of fiberoptics and flexible operating scopes attracted interest in this field (**Miller, 1978**).

The use of VATS has greatly increased over the past years. Thoracoscopy can be used as a diagnostic and therapeutic tool in most areas of the chest. Video-assisted thoracoscopic surgery has been used in the anterior mediastinum to perform thymectomies; cardiac surgeons perform aortocoronary revascularization using VATS techniques;

esophageal repairs and resections have been also performed(**Collard et al., 1993**).