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"The Classics"

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Bertil Stener made Gothenburg one of the cradles of musculoskeletal tumor surgery when he already in the 1960's developed a profound interest in this area. He was a pioneer and the father of many classical works in different fields of musculoskeletal tumor surgery.

I will focus on his ingenious approaches to tumors of the spine and sacrum with special emphasis on his spinal reconstructions. Those four patients who had had total spondylectomy

and the longest follow-up will be presented in detail. Lasting, stable reconstruction of the spine was achieved with autologous bone grafts and "primitive" supporting metallic implants (AO-plates, wires, screws, Meurig-Williams plates, Harrington rods, Dwyer compression wires). Because of the questionable strength of the implants and their anchorage to the spine the patients were kept in bed rest for 2-6 months and wore plaster jackets for 8-12 months.

The long-term results (23-44 years) are extremely good. MSTS-scores ranged from 70-87 per cent. Stener's reconstructions of the spine have stood the test of time.

Also his principles and method for high amputation of the sacrum were based on analytical skill, profound knowledge and surgical ability. They are still adhered to.

Classical works will always be remembered.

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