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COMMENT ON

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Earlier citation

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The Barrel Sling technique for ankle traction, as described by Ramaraju and Schenk,¹ was already recorded by the Greek physician Heraklas, probably in the 1st century AD. Heraklas's brief essay on 18 surgical slings and knots owes its preservation to the fact that Oribasius of Pergamum included it toward the end of the 4th century in his *Iatrikon Synagogos*. The oldest extant manuscript of this is the *Codex Nicetas* made in the 10th century and kept in the Biblioteca Mediceo Laurenziana in Florence, Italy, as Manuscript Plut. 74.7. Heraklas's essay featured the same sling as the *Brokhos Drakon* or Dragon sling. Heraklas's description cannot be misunderstood² and the first correct illustration of this sling was published in 1947.³ Prior to that, a similar traction sling was reported and illustrated as Gerdy's Extension Knot in Eliason's book on bandaging.⁴

Figure 1 Illustration after Day, of the *Brokhos Drakon* or Dragon Sling as described by Heraklas, probably in the 1st century AD. Note that the way to finish the sling indicated at the reader's left side results in a sling identical to the one presented recently by Ramaraju and Schenk.¹

Ramaraju and Schenk unfortunately referred to the Barrel Sling. Still, it is clear from Budworth's book and other standard works that the Barrel Sling is an altogether different sling.⁵ Presenting another sling under the same name ought to be avoided because the literature on slings and sling tying is all knots and tangles as it is.

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