



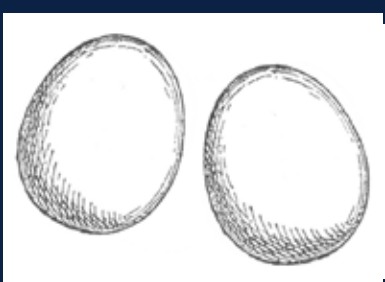
A History of the Cast

Broken bones have always been a common occurrence. But the methods for treating them have changed over the centuries.



~3000 BC:

Ancient Egyptians used bark splints wrapped in linen and stiff bandages

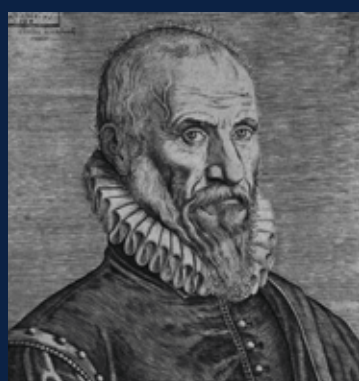


~1000 AD:

An Arab Andalusian physician introduced using clay gum mixtures, as well as flour and egg whites

700-2000 BCE:

The Shoshone Indians used hardened strips of rawhide



16th CE:

French surgeon Ambroise Pare invented the use of wax, cardboard, cloth and parchment as cast material for broken bones.

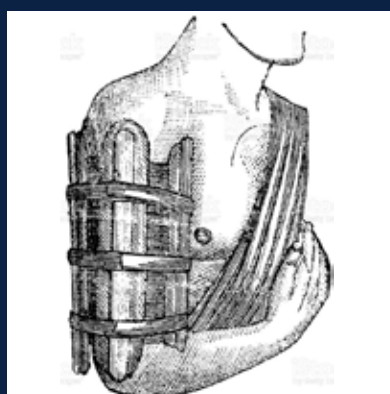
~1828:

Berlin doctors used wooden boxes filled with moist sand



Early 1840s:

A Belgian surgeon used strips of linen or bandages soaked in starch and splints



Early 1850s–1950:

Plaster of Paris (treated gypsum powder) was rubbed into strips of coarse cloth, creating a fast-drying plaster when mixed with water.

20th century:

Plaster of Paris casts are still used today, though doctors have made improvements in application and efficiency



1970s:

Introduction of fiberglass casts (faster-drying, lighter, more durable, water resistant)

1990s:

Water resistant cast linings introduced (but are costlier and take longer to apply)



August 24, 2019:

NorthShore Orthopaedic & Spine Institute became the Guinness World Records™ title holder for the "Largest Orthopaedic Cast"! The cast would fit a 78-foot-tall person! It was displayed and signed at the ceremony.