

## **Radiology and its early practice in Portuguese medical institutions**

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Since the discovery of X-Rays by William Röntgen (1845–1923) in 1895, Radiology has probably been the field of Medicine with a more spectacular evolution.

From the very beginning the Portuguese Medical School got a strong interest in the medical application of X-Rays; just after one month of its discovery, the first essays on X-Rays, some on clinical diagnosis, were performed at the University of Coimbra by the Physics professor and physician Henrique Teixeira Bastos (1861-1943). Several radiographies of outstanding quality were obtained by this physician. The previous existence at this university facility of instrumentation adequate for this type of experiments was fundamental; this was due to the scientific contacts already established with the European scientific community by Antonio Santos Viegas (1835-1914) which led to the early study of electric discharges in gases at the University of Coimbra.

Similar experiments were also done in Lisbon in the same year by the physician Virgilio Machado (1859-1927) with whom collaborated a professional photographer Augusto Bobone (1852-1910) and by other ones in Oporto.

Despite this pioneering work, the first equipment for radiology was only installed in Portuguese hospitals in 1901, at the *Hospital de S. José* in Lisbon. The following year, a radiology department was installed at the University Hospital of Coimbra and only in 1908 at the *Hospital de S. Antonio* in Oporto.

In this paper the contributions of Portuguese scientists and photographers for the improvement of the instrumental technique and the medical applications of X-Rays, will be discussed.

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