ANATOMY OF THE TONGUE IN AL-QANUN OF AVICENNA

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Objective: The aim of this review is to summarize the most important contributions of Avicenna, included in Al-Qanun, to the study of the anatomy of the tongue. Material and methods: We made a review of several editions in Arabic and Persian of the first and the second volume of Al-Qanun, focusing on the chapters which study the anatomy of the tongue and trying to relate the concepts involved with the current knowledge. Results: Al-Qanun of Avicenna offers a clear example of the advanced level of understanding of anatomy of the tongue, as they were perceived since more than a thousand years, and which many concepts still apply to the present. Conclusion: The field of anatomy of the tongue is a clear example of the involvement of Islamic Medicine and the contribution of Muslim physicians in the evolution of Anatomy. The scientific contributions of the great masters, like Avicenna, in this field should not be ignored.

Key words: Al-Qanun, Avicenna, anatomy, tongue.