We are all ORTHOPEDIC, not “ortho-paed-ic” or straight-child-ish... from “παιδίον”/paedion (child) of Andry’s book for children!

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Book review

There is a serious difference between the incorrect for orthopedic specialty “etymology” based on term “orthopédie” of Andry’s book written in 1741 concerning instructions for prevention of deformities in children and formed from the ancient Greek words ὀρθός/orthos (straight) and παιδίον/paedia (child), and the correct Greek etymology of the term orthopedics (ορθοπεδίου in Greek) derived, according to its meaning, from the ancient Greek word ὀρθός/orthos (straight) and the ancient Greek verb πέδω/ped-o (prevent a distortion, commit, hold strongly and steadily, engage with brakes, keep something motionless, bind) to express exactly our specialty focusing on the prevention and correction of deformities in all age groups, not only in children. The ancient Greek verb πέδω/пед-o (ped-o) is already found in Homer (Οδυσσεια in Greek) the ancient Greek poet and author of Iliad and Odyssey, for example in N435 «πέδεσε (ped-isse) δὲ φαιδίμα γυῖα» (έδεσε τα λαμπρά μέλη in modern Greek or Bind the brilliant members/limbs in English translation), many centuries before the neologism “orthopédie” for a children’s book of French physician Nicolas Andry (1658-1742) translated into English as “orthopaedia” [1-4].

If the subject of orthopedics as it evolved into a separate specialization through the last hundred years was only related to children and had a notional connection with the original meaning of the term “orthopédie” that the French physician created without taking into consideration, willingly or not, possibly not knowing the pre-existing ancient Greek verb πέδω/пед-o and its derivatives in Greek language ὀρθό-πεδ-ώ/ortho-ped-o (prevent a distortion, commit, hold strongly and steadily, engage with brakes, keep something motionless, bind) all written with an ε/ε, not “αι/ae, we should agree that the Andry’s etymology is without knowing the pre-existed ancient Greek verb πεδ-ώ/pedo, πεδ-ίον/pedion (soil, field) or παιδ-ίον/paedia (child), “pédion” in French. So, many English or American orthopedic/orthopedic surgeons e.g. the members of American Academy of orthopedic Surgeons (AAOS) who did not know and do not know the above mentioned correct and suitable ancient Greek words believe that only the incorrect for adults Andry’s used words for children, ὀρθός/orthos and παιδίον/paedia (child), are the most suitable to express the whole object of orthopedics. They unfortunately established the term «orthopedic» with «ae» based on the second wrong synthetic word paidion/paedia (child) for children considering that all adult orthopedic surgeons are «children», «childish» or «only for children»... as it was described in Andry’s book [5,6].

Orthopedic medical specialty is not a “book for children” but the specialization related mainly to adult patients, that makes them stand and walk uprightly and in an ὀρθή(ός)/orthos/ straight position on the field/soil, πεδ-ίον/pedion in Greek, as well as the specialization that rectifies and prevents deformities, concepts related with the ancient Greek verb πέδ-ώ/пед-o and its derivatives, not the word paidion/paedia (child) of Andry’s book.

Ortho-ped-ic surgeons, ὀρθο-πεδ-ικοί χειρουργοί in Greek language, do not “play” with παιδία/paedia (children) or try to “become” like children. All are adults and try to correct deformities in all patients, not only in children.
The correct words to express the object of ortho-ped-ic specialty existed and were being used from more than twenty centuries before Andry’s book for children.

The ancient Greek word "ορθό-πο-υς"/ortho-po-us (with straight feet), not ortho-pai-us/ortho-pae-us, was used from ancient Greek tragic poet Sophocles, 496-406 BC, and was formed from the word ορθός/orthos (straight) and the derivative of the verb πεδ-ώ/pe-d-o-ped-o (foot/foot in English, pes/pedis in Latin). The ancient Greek word “Ορθό-ποδ-όσιν”/ortho-pod-ousin (walking uprightly) of Holy Bible, was formed also from the same verb πεδ-ώ/ped-o which express the focus of ortho-ped-ics for all age groups.

Why do we consider correct a derivative "ortho-paed-ics" of Andry’s term “orthopédie" based on paidion/paedic (child) and false the self-evident derivative ortho-ped-ικ-ος/ortho-ped-ics, objective of the verb ορθό-παιδ-ικ-ος/ortho-ped-ics, of the whole object of orthopedic. The truth must not depend on partial data of a “book for children” and the false used words of a French physician but on the knowledge of all the historical and etymological data of this subject. The meaning of a term must be in agreement with its composite words. The ortho-ped-ics are not "ortho-paed-ic" or "straight childish". The term ortho-ped-ics with an e, not ae, is written similar to French term orthopédique, in Latin orthopedico and to establish for more than one century in Greece term ορθό-παιδ-ικ-ος with α e.

It was natural for French and English orthopedic surgeons to connect the term orthopedics/orthopedic with the word παιδίον/ paedic (child) of Andry’s book because no anyone Greek linguist or orthopedic surgeon explained them the long Greek history of the term ορθοπαιδική (orthopedics). But during last year’s we’ve have an additional problem in Greece. The Greek orthopedic society EEXOT, written with only ε (e) to ορθο-παιδ-ική (orthopedics) in all languages. In Thesaurus Linguae Graecae (T.L.G.)/Θυσαυρός Ελληνικής Γλώσσας, 1972, are also found the words “Πέδ-η (ped-i), πεδ-ῶ (ped-o) with ε (e), not παιδίον/paedion/ paedion (child), derived long before the Andry’s period, are the correct synthetic words for our specialty and must be written in similar way in any e (e) in all languages.

Greek words related to correct etymology of the term orthopedics from the word ορθός (orthos) and the root πεδ-/pod (ped/pod) written with ε (e) are enough in Greek literature as it is mentioned mainly in Greek and English Lexicon, HG Liddell & R. Scott, 1940, “Ορθοποτέω = to walk uprightly (βαδίζω κατ’ εύθείαν είς μέρος τι, Κ. Πορφυρ. Εκθ, βας, Τάξ., 496, 16: μεταφαρ., βαδίζω την όρθην όδόν in Greek), in the phrase ‘άλλ’ οτε είδον ὡς οὐκ ὀρθο-ποδ-ούσι (ortho-pod-ousi) προς ἀληθεύην του Ευαγγελίου Επιστ. επ. Γαλατ., β’, 14.).” Ορθό-ποιως/ortho-poiw = with straight feet (ὁ ἔχων ευθείας πόδας, ὀρθώς περιφέρομαι, ὁρθ. βαίνωντες ἁνεί...θείηνης, Νεκ., Αλέξιφ., 1419, in Greek). “Ορθό-ποδ-έτω (ortho-pod-eto),” "Ορθό-ποδ-ῶ (ortho-pod-o = I follow the straight path, I walk along a straight road), Ισαακ, Μεσον, 2, Ιδε Αθηνας Τ. ΙΑ, σ. 494”, "Ορθό-ποδ-ίω (ortho-po-e) dizo = I follow the straight path, I walk along a straight road) πεδίον κατ’ υψηλόν, Κέρδ., Ι. 80-18, in Greek” [7].

In the intermediate Greece – English Lexicon, HG Liddell & R. Scott, Oxford, 1975 it is also mentioned that "Ο αιλοκάσιος τύπος (aerial type) πεδ-ά (ped-a) is coming from the roots -πεδ-/ped (πεδ-ά in Greek, pe-zos, ped-ieuoos in Latin), “ορθόν/ ortho ped-a (ped-a) τήμημα, έκτεινον τον πόδα (ped-a) κατ’ εύθεινην μπροστά, όπος κατά το βαθύσια (stretch the leg straight ahead in English), “πέδ-άρον (ped-aroon) εμαυτόν, σηκώνομαι και πηγαίνω στο άλλο μέρος (I get up and go to another place in English), “πεδ-άροις (ped-aoros), ο ψυχόμενος υπέραν του εδέφους (the elevated above the ground in English), “πέδ-ή (ped-i) (=Bind, bond, cuff, barrier, fetter), “πέδ-ικουλ (ped-iclon), διαμόρφων για τα πόδια (bond, cuff for feet in English), “In Latin etymology ped-ica, ex-ped-ico, im-ped-ico, (fetter in English) and "εμ-πέδ-ον (em-po-e) d-ion, obstacle, prevent in English" [8].

In Thesaurus Linguae Graecae (T.L.G.)/Θυσαυρός Ελληνικής Γλώσσας, 1972, are also found the words “Πέδ-ή (ped-i), πεδ-ά
(ped-o), πεδ-ήσω (ped-issa), ποῦς (pous), ποδ-ός (pod-os), ποδ-ώ (pod-o) and πεδ-ό (ped-o), ("ο" transformed to "ε"), πεδ-ήσαι (ped-issae), πόδ-άς (pod-as) and the phrases "παρά τό πιέζειν τούς πόδ-ας (pod-as), ηλιάδος ν", "Άμφι δε ποσσί πεδ-άς (ped-as) βίβλευν in ancient Greek) [9].

Almost all Greek dictionaries, except very few e.g. of Μπαμπινιώτης (Bambiniotis), have the term ορθοπαιδεία (orthopedics) with e/e as a first choice and not the incorrect for the object of orthopedic specialization term "ορθο-παιδ-ική (ortho-paedia) with α/αε.

The jovial and unacceptable phenomenon of the two different types of writing of the same term as ορθοπαιδία/orthopedics and ορθοπαιδική/orthopedic in Greek and English, concerning the focus of one of the most important medical specialties, cannot be continued as is. It must be corrected definitely by the decision of all orthopedic surgeons in all over the world to write the title for their job with an "e" according to the correct second composite word of this title. This writing with an "ε" is also similar and the same from an optical point with the French "etymology" and term "orthopédie" established by Andry in 1741 for his book for children. The ancient Greek words, ορθόν and παις-παιδίον (paion, paedion, child), which he used in order to compose the term "orthopedie" were correct for his book and the correction of the deformities of the adults from adult and not child-ish or "paed-ic"... surgeons.

This presupposes that the orthopedic surgeons in all over the world and mainly the members of orthopedic societies in Greece, England and U.S.A., mainly of the American AAOS, who know only the words orthon and paedion and insist on it, will study all the historical and etymological elements before Andry and understand the problem and respect the real and correct ancient roots of their title.

The definitive solution for the future is the acceptance of all orthopedic surgeons of the term ORTHO-PED-ICS (ΟΡΘΟ-ΠΕΔ-ΙΚΗ) including the correct root -PED in all scientific magazines and meetings and not the incorrect for our specialty title "ΟΡΘΟ-ΠΑΕΔ-ΙΚΣ" (ΟΡΘΟ-ΠΑΙΔ-ΙΚΗ) from Andry’s PAED-ION (CHILD)... We are not children or childish to declare that we are "PAED-IC"... or members of "PAED-IC"... societies. Let’s take things seriously once [10-26].

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