

# ADSON'S FORCEPS

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The Adson thumb forceps are widely used in surgery due to the precise control they give to the surgeon. Smooth Adson forceps are **used on tissues that require a firm grip** such as fascia, skin, or the abdominal wall.

They are widely used across a range of procedures including biopsy, dermatology, minor surgery, vasectomy, and carpal tunnel. They are regularly used in exploratory surgery for gently moving tissue or for holding it during the suturing process. The forceps would be part of instrument in sets for procedures such as appendectomy and biopsy. Smooth forceps should not be used on skin or fascia as the excessive force required can damage the tissue.



**Alfred Washington Adson** (March 13, 1887 – November 12, 1951) was an American physician, military officer, and surgeon. He practiced at the Mayo Clinic and the Mayo



Graduate School of Medicine of the University of Minnesota. He was associated with the development of the Section of Neurological Surgery which was first established at the Mayo in 1919 and was its chair until 1946. He was born at Terril, Iowa. His parents were both Norwegian immigrants. Adson attained his BSc in 1912 at the University of Nebraska, his M.D. in 1914 from the University of Pennsylvania and MA in 1918 from the University of Nebraska.

As a fellow in surgery, he entered the Mayo Clinic in July 1914 and was invited to develop a section of neurological surgery. He became a member of staff on January 1, 1917. **Adson undertook innovative neurosurgery for the treatment of glossopharyngeal neuralgia, Raynaud's Disease, Hirschsprung's disease and for essential hypertension.**

He was a first lieutenant in the Medical Reserve Corps of the US Army in the First World War, a colonel in the US Army Medical Reserve Corps, a fellow of The American College of Surgeons, a member of numerous neurological and neurosurgical associations, president of the Society of Neurological Surgeons in 1932 and 1933, of the Minnesota State Medical Association in 1937, the Minnesota State Board of Medical Examiners in 1938 and 1943, the Minnesota Neurological Society in 1941, and of the North Central Medical Conference in 1948.