

DEBAKEY FORCEPS

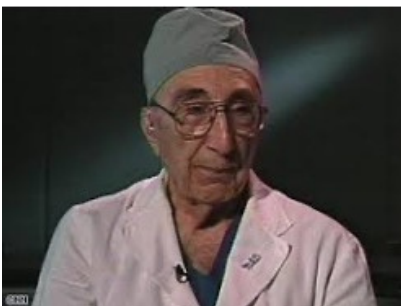
Written by: Dr Chris de Gara

The DeBakey forceps are vascular forceps and have **a precision for delicately holding a vessel allowing for accurate suture**. The clamp allows for large vessels like the vena cava or aorta to be grasped so as to prevent bleeding from them and to allow vascular anastomoses.

Michael Ellis DeBakey (September 7, 1908 – July 11, 2008) was a Lebanese-American general and cardiovascular surgeon, scientist and medical educator who became Chairman of the Department of Surgery, President, and Chancellor of Baylor College of Medicine at the Texas Medical Center in Houston, Texas.



Born to Lebanese immigrants, DeBakey was inspired to pursue a career in medicine by the physicians that he had met at his father's drug store, and he simultaneously learned sewing skills from his mother. He subsequently attended Tulane University to study medicine. At Tulane, **he developed a roller pump, used to transfuse blood directly from person to person and later became a component of the heart-lung machine**. He completed his surgical fellowships in Europe, before returning to Tulane University in 1937. During the Second World War, he worked in the Surgical Consultants Division of the Office of the Army Surgeon General, and later was involved in the establishment of the Veterans Administration.



DeBakey's surgical innovations included novel procedures to repair aortic aneurysms and dissections, the development of ventricular assist devices, and the introduction of prosthetic vascular substitutes. With his mentor, Alton Ochsner, in 1939 DeBakey **postulated a strong link between smoking and carcinoma of the lung**, a hypothesis that other researchers supported as well.

In the 1950s, DeBakey's He pursued the ideal material to make vascular grafts, settling on Dacron. Using his wife's sewing machine, **DeBakey produced the first arterial Dacron grafts to replace or repair blood vessels**. He performed the first successful carotid endarterectomy in 1953. A year later, he pioneered techniques in grafts for the various parts of the aorta.

DeBakey was among the earliest surgeons to perform coronary artery bypass surgery. A pioneer in the development of an artificial heart, he was among the first to use an external heart pump successfully in a patient – a left ventricular bypass pump.