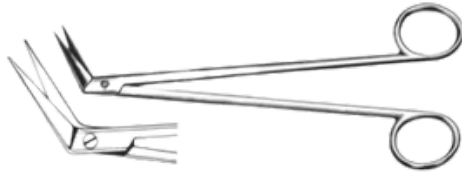


# POTT'S ANGLED SCISSORS



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These are **delicate scissors with a 45-degree angle**. This angle specifically allows for venotomies and arteriotomies. The holes made in the vessels can be short or long as needs demand for subsequent suturing. **Percival Pott** (January 6, 1714, to December 22, 1788) was born in Threadneedle street in London, the site of the current Bank of England.

His father was a Scribner or scribe, also known as a notary. For 210 GBP per annum (equivalent to \$13,500 today, with average salary of a person being \$65 per year), Pott apprenticed for 7 years at St Bartholomew's hospital, which has been a hospital in West Smithfield, London since 1123. Pott joined the Barber Surgeons company and was Assistant Surgeon to the hospital. He became Master of Anatomy and Fellow of the Royal Society.

To be born poor in the 18th century was, for too many, a death sentence. **For every 1,000 children born in early-18th-century London, almost 500 died before they were 2**, generally due to malnutrition, bad water, dirty food, and poor hygiene.



Doctors did not know what caused disease and some continued to believe in the pseudo-science of four humors (blood, yellow bile, black bile & phlegm), although belief in this theory declined during the 18th century.

Pott's name is associated with many medical discoveries. He first described the spinal deformity which was later found to be due to tuberculosis. This spinal deformity and subsequent leg paralysis was known as Pott's disease of the spine or curvature which led to the appearance of hunchback. He wrote extensively on abdominal herniae, head injuries and fistulae. The fourteen pamphlets he produced for public consumption were in great demand and would sell for 1 shilling and 6 pence each. **Pott employed a gentler approach to his surgical practice than was common in his day**. He preferred to avoid operative surgery wherever possible.

However, Pott's most lasting legacy relates to his observations, treatment and advocacy of scrotal cancer in chimney sweeps. In 1775 he established the link between the scrotal sores in chimney sweeps and the prolonged exposure they experienced to chimney soot. Pott's advocacy was to lead to the British Parliament passing the Chimney Sweeps Act of 1788 which prevented boys younger than the age of 8 years becoming sweeps and mandating that they wore suitable protective clothes.