

## Archives of Surgical Research | Prof Syed Zafar Haider Memorial Feature

# Stomach or Colon for Esophageal Replacement? What Prof Haider thought!

Talat Waseem

**IMPORTANCE** Prof Syed Zafar Haider has been the most influential surgical trainer in the history of Pakistani surgical community. He has influenced number of current and past surgical giants with his own style, quality and discipline and fortunately me as well. He pioneered trans-hiatal esophagectomy in Pakistan. In this brief writing I would share a letter written by Mark Orringer to Prof Haider weighing stomach vs colon for esophageal replacement. This letter here attached was written by Dr Orringer from University of Michigan to Shah sb. This is a glimpse of historic correspondence between two surgical giants, in which they weigh colon vs. stomach for esophageal replacement.

**KEYWORDS** Esophageal replacement, colonic interposition,

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### ZH Memorial Feature

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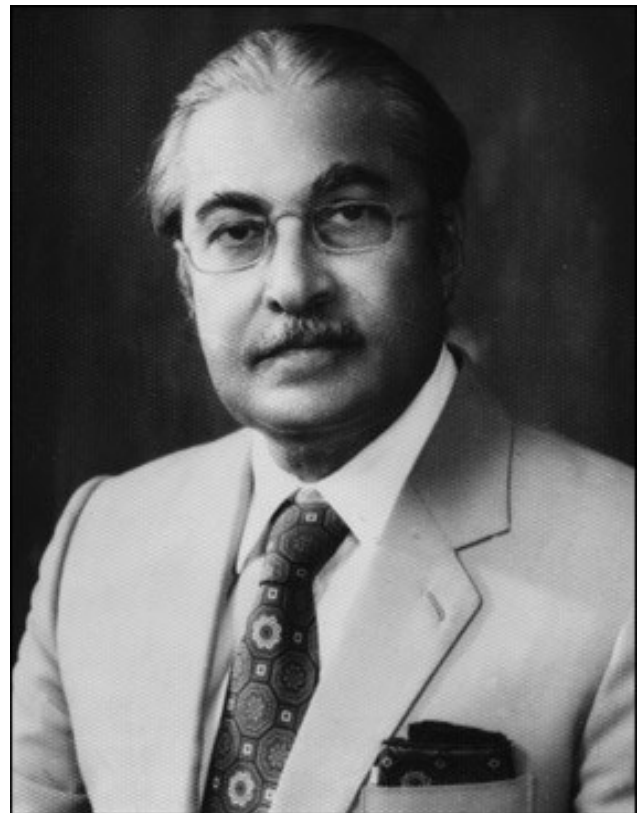
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Prof Syed Zafar Haider has been the most influential surgical trainer in the history of Pakistani surgical community. He has influenced a great number of current and past surgical giants with his own style, quality and discipline and fortunately me as well. I have not seen another self-less educator, like he was. Most of my surgical training is through Prof Khwaja M Azim, a great surgical excellence himself, who learned all from Great Prof Haider. Through him, I had brief but very meaningful interactions with Shah sb in terms of surgical career direction. After retirement he served at Shalamar Hospital for almost a decade and later voluntarily taught surgical graduates of Shalamar Medical and Dental College. In the last few years of his life, considering his passion to teach, we convinced him to teach the Shalamar Graduates. My job was to facilitate him in this process. His style of teaching the students was superb. He was true reflection of Koen's Model of learning in which every lesson had clinical preamble and perspective to enhance cognitive retention of students. Apart from using conventional means of training he believed in technology and adaptation. For every lesson he had self-made lectures, slides and handouts showing his devotion to the process of teaching and training. One day, he brought me a letter that he received from Mark Baker Orringer, a pioneer in Trans-hiatal Esophagectomy. To my knowledge, he started doing esophagectomy in Pakistan in the same period in Nishter Medical College Multan, when it was popularized by Dr Orringer in USA. For an hour we talked about esophageal replacement. He always preferred stomach over colon for number of reasons and he shared the approaches he used and why. This letter here attached was written by Dr Orringer from University of

Michigan to Shah sb. This is a glimpse of historic correspondence between two surgical giants, in which they weigh colon vs. stomach for esophageal replacement. The inference of this letter still stands true even after 35 years of advancement in esophageal surgery.



# The University of Michigan



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Professor S. Zafar Haider, FRCS  
(England)  
Professor of Surgery  
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Dear Professor Haider:

Thank you for your letter of March 5, 1985, regarding your experience with transhiatal esophagectomy without thoracotomy. Having now performed this operation in more than 250 patients, approximately 150 with carcinoma, and 100 with various benign diseases of the esophagus, including caustic strictures, I am more than convinced of the efficacy of this operation in achieving esophageal resection and replacement with the least morbidity possible. As I have indicated in my publications regarding this operation for carcinoma, I believe that our 95% resectability rate through the hiatus for our patients with carcinoma is indicative of the fact that we do not see patients with very far advanced tumors. I remain extremely pleased with the use of stomach as an esophageal replacement for benign disease requiring esophagectomy, and I believe that the long-term functional results with stomach are better than those obtained with colon interposition.

Thank you again for your very kind letter.

Sincerely yours,

*Mark B. Orringer*

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MBO/150/bm