Charles-François Felix Encyclopedia Article

Charles-François Felix

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1635?-1703

French surgeon who single-handedly raised the status of surgeons above that of barbers and closer to that of physicians with his operation of an anal fistula on Louis XIV. At this time, surgeons did not have the social or educational status of physicians and competed with barbers for surgical work. This single surgery on the king of France gained royal support and did much to further the respect of the profession.