Peter Chamberlen, the Elder Encyclopedia Article

Peter Chamberlen, the Elder

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Peter Chamberlen, the Elder

1560-1631

English midwife credited with introducing obstetric forceps to the midwifery profession. The Chamberlen family of male midwives, which included Peter Chamberlen the Younger and nephew Peter Chamberlen III, practiced in London and claimed to have a superior way to deliver babies with less pain to women. They allegedly kept Peter the Elder's forceps a "closely guarded secret," training select physicians to use them but for a price.