

Abstract

THOSE GODS WHO INVENTED SUPPORT BANDAGING

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What other treatment has come down to us in this way over the centuries without undergoing any change in its basic principles? None other than support bandaging, which dates back several thousands of years and remains just as topical now as it was at its very beginning.

The rolled-up linen band which can be seen in the Egyptian museum of Turin and which was found in the tomb of the architect Kha and his wife Merit could be used and applied just as successfully today, 3.500 years later, on any patient with venous insufficiency or on any leg ulcer.

What lies behind this infatuation with bandaging, so unique in the history of civilisation?

The research shows that the people in what is now the Middle East and North-East Africa had known of an used support bandaging for a variety of funeral, religious and medical purpose from prehistoric times. This continued used of compression over a period of several millennia can be explained by its effectiveness, which assumed divine proportions with the myth of Osiris and Isis in the ancient Egypt. The interpretation of the Egyptian images, myths and rites explains the importance of bandaging for the ancients from both a profane and a sacred perspective.