

# Jean François Fernel Encyclopedia Article

## Jean François Fernel

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# Jean François Fernel

**1497-1558**

French physician and astronomer who was the first to describe appendicitis, or the inflammation of the appendix, and the first to describe peristalsis which is the wavelike motion of muscle in the throat to push food down to the stomach. Fernel was the first to use the terms *physiology* and *pathology* and was the first to precisely record observations of endocarditis, or the inflammation of the lining of the heart.