

Most thoracic surgeons would agree, that airway surgery is not only a particularly interesting but often also a quite challenging part in the whole field of thoracic surgery. Whereas the access to the cervical trachea is relatively easy and standardized mainly thanks to its relatively superficial position, the access to the intrathoracic airways requires quite a bit more flexibility. As such, the access to these airways itself and the techniques for resection and reconstruction strongly depend on the location and type of surgery that one needs to perform. Possible approaches vary from sternotomy, thoracotomy, and hemiclamsell up to the recently more often reported minimally invasive access routes. Another issue, which is of key importance in airway surgery, is the creation of a tension-free anastomosis, which requires knowledge of different releasing maneuvers. In addition, especially when operating on the central airways such as the intrathoracic trachea and carina, securing the airway at all times during surgery is a main concern. Therefore, more than during any other type of thoracic surgery, good cooperation and communication between the surgeon and the anesthetist is key to a successful operation. Overall, surgery of the intrathoracic airways is complex and the key to success is a combination of good preoperative planning, meticulous surgical technique including the necessary releasing maneuvers and perfect coordination with anesthetists. Only in this way a smooth resection and tension-free reconstruction of the central intrathoracic airways is possible, reducing postoperative morbidity and mortality to a minimum.

This book does not only cover the basic technical principles of tracheal, carinal and bronchial surgery, but also takes into account the latest developments in the field of minimally invasive surgery in addition to the discussion of the concurrently evolved anesthetic considerations and possibilities. Experts from all over the world have contributed their precious knowledge and experience, which makes this book a comprehensive, state-of-the-art piece of work on airway surgery. The result is a textbook in a class of its own, providing exhaustive knowledge with systematic instructions and illustrations (including videos!) of even the most challenging surgical procedures in the field of thoracic surgery. For all these reasons, it is a great honor for me not only to co-edit, but also to contribute the preface to this exciting project. I do not only hope, rather I am very sure that you will enjoy this edition!



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