

Problems affecting the airway are uncommon. Because of this, it was one of the last areas of surgery to draw the attention of many surgeons.

Tracheobronchial surgery used to be confined to a small number of surgeons who were intrigued by the problems, new concepts, myths, and challenges. The limits of resection and technique of reconstruction were the surgical challenges and anesthesia allowing open airway surgery had to be addressed as well.

The early pioneers identified these issues and tested their hypotheses in the lab and brought the successful ideas to the bedside. This sound, rational approach is still a model for surgical investigation. Trying something before technical details are worked out has too often led to poor patient outcomes. A rush to print before analysis and careful follow up has led to many misadventures and again poor outcomes.

This book promises to be an important contribution and reference for contemporary surgeons interested in airway disease. The number of interested surgeons has expanded around the globe as witnessed by the diverse countries of origin of the contributors.

So as not to forget the origins of this discipline and repeat the mistakes of the past, an historical perspective of tracheal surgery is included. The diverse perspectives provided allow the reader the opportunity to see there is more than one way to do things.

Surgeons continue to push the boundaries by going from large open operations to now where even the most complicated operations have been accomplished by uniportal minimally invasive techniques.

The anesthetic challenges have been met as well. This book addresses techniques that heretofore were thought to be impossible. The use of cardiopulmonary bypass and ECMO have opened new possibilities. The notion that open airway surgery could be done without intubation seemed like an impossibility and yet even that boundary has been crossed.

Readers will enjoy this compilation of interesting reports about surgery of the trachea and bronchi and after reading continue to push the boundaries even further.

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