

The issue of the present textbook is tracheal and bronchial surgery. This stimulating field of thoracic surgery represents a major technical challenge that has registered a significant improvement over time, thus changing the modern approach to a number of benign and malignant diseases. Outlook for cure of benign tracheal and laryngotracheal stenoses and of tumors involving the airway has dramatically improved in recent years together with growing experience and progressive diffusion of reconstructive techniques.

The progress of such attractive reconstructive procedures has provided new successful results and solutions to clinical problems long remained unsolved. This was made possible largely by improving anesthesia technique; for this main reason a section of this book is dedicated to this aspect.

Lesions affecting the trachea are quite uncommon and only few centers worldwide have collected large experience in this setting. From the first tracheal resection, significant improvement in surgical technique has been made in the last decades; thus offering a chance for definitive cure even to patients with benign subglottic stenosis, for whom palliative procedures had been the rule for a long time. Technical aspects and results of some of the pilot experiences with prosthetic tracheal replacement have been also included in this volume.

Airway reconstructive procedures have also radically modified the surgical management of tumors invading the carina and main bronchi. Increased expertise and acceptance of these techniques have allowed to enlarge the spectrum of operable tumors and to standardize healthy lung parenchyma sparing in the treatment of many patients with centrally located neoplasms. Progressive affirmation of minimally invasive approaches has become a current trend also in this field of thoracic surgery, as proved by the initial experiences reported with video-thoracoscopic or robotic sleeve resections. Interesting chapters by eminent colleagues discussing the role of the latter approaches in such complex operations are part of this volume.

Special attention has been dedicated to technical details of anastomotic reconstruction including those concerning lung transplantation, and to risk evaluation. Judgment and technical accuracy are the way to gain excellent results and to not jeopardize the cure; tip and tricks and new techniques that pertain in particular the prevention and treatment of complications are illustrated.

Endoscopic treatment has a crucial role in the management of airway diseases. Clinical judgment and large specific experience is essential to define the correct indications for such procedures. Operative endoscopy should be considered an additional resource for surgery allowing to improve results of treatment and to avoid unnecessary operation.

This volume offers contributions from some of the main experts in airway disease and surgery with the aim of improving knowledge and providing a guide for surgeons and physicians facing clinical airway problems. We thank all the authors who have contributed to this book. We are convinced that their outstanding support will offer a comprehensive overview of the state of the art of this complex and fascinating topic.

Erino Angelo Rendina, MD

Lorillard Spencer Cenci Foundation

Department of Thoracic Surgery, Sant'Andrea Hospital,

Sapienza University, Rome, Italy; Lorillard Spencer Cenci Foundation, Rome, Italy

Email: erinoangelo.rendina@uniroma1.it