

Airway surgery represents a challenging field for the thoracic surgeon. This subspecialty has found development only after the second half of the 20th century, thanks to the work of pioneers, who first decided to study this organ's anatomy and physiology, and developed specific surgical techniques to perform tracheal and bronchial resection and reconstruction. Merit of these outstanding surgeons does not only lie in their clinical achievements, but also in their life-long effort in teaching and sharing their experience to thoracic community, by the aid of textbooks and papers, that have become milestones of the scientific literature.

Today, such procedures as tracheal resection and anastomosis, repair of tracheo-esophageal fistulas, tracheal and bronchial sleeve resections and lung transplantation are considered an integral part of thoracic surgery, although these remain challenging operations, reserved to a relatively restricted number of specialized centers over the world.

Furthermore, a growing surgical expertise, newer technical advances, development of biomaterials, and the rise of minimally invasive thoracic surgery, have added complexity to the panorama of airway surgery, broadening the spectrum of possible therapeutic interventions.

With this premises in mind, this book aims to offer the most up-to-date knowledge on the subject, from the most authoritative experts around the globe. All the many facets of this fascinating discipline are covered and discussed in-depth, including its most recent developments.

I deeply recommend this manual as a textbook for anyone who wants to approach tracheal and bronchial surgery for the first time, as well as a state-of-the-art reference volume for all physicians already involved in this field.

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