

Disorders involving the airway are relatively uncommon; adequate treatment planning requires technical skills and experience. For this reason, without a special interest it could be difficult for most individuals to gain adequate competence in this field, where the difference between success and failure may be minimal but makes a big difference. This is particularly true for patients with tracheal problems: in these cases, success means freedom from the need of a lifelong tracheostomy and preservation of the voice. Notwithstanding the first tracheal resection was performed more than 100 years ago, only during the last 30 years an extensive work led to success starting from experiments in the animal lab; details on anatomy, extent of resection, anastomotic tension limits, anastomotic technique and materials resulted in successful treatment of trachea-bronchial disorders.

This book is dedicated to surgery of the airway; enclosed are manuscripts that, starting from the historical perspective, address all the major problems of the airway and their optimal treatment. Advanced techniques are described, from operative endoscopy to tracheal transplantation, from laryngotracheal resection to the anastomotic techniques during lung transplantation, giving a fantastic overview of this technically demanding surgical arena.

We hope that our colleagues familiar with these problems will enjoy the reading; for those that are not yet familiar with them, we hope that they will find the information as an inspiration to gain experience and become leaders in this field.

Federico Venuta, MD

Cattedra di Chirurgia Toracica, Università di Roma Sapienza, Policlinico Umberto I,
Viale del Policlinico, 155, 00166 Rome, Italy
Email: federico.venuta@uniroma1.it