

In recent decades, we have witnessed tremendous improvements in the field of surgery, and no other area of surgery has had such intense and rapid development as colorectal surgery. New and exciting diagnostic procedures and operative approaches, which are continuing to evolve as we learn how they may be applied to routine clinical settings, help in the evaluation of patients and provide detailed knowledge about which treatment should be chosen. The gastrointestinal tract, more than any other abdominal organ, continues to open up fascinating surgical frontiers in both basic research as well as in clinical practice. Clinical studies supported by surgical technology have contributed to our further understanding of the clinical behaviour of the various colorectal diseases, resulting in more reasonable and appropriate clinical management. The cutting-edge knowledge and comments on recently published studies provided in this book bring together the accumulated experience of many of the leading surgeons and physicians and the latest clinical research. We have endeavored, with help of an international group of contributors, to provide an up-to-date and authoritative account of the management of colorectal disease in selected topics. Collectively, the chapters make a case for the need for new innovative approaches to integrating surgical technology into the management of patient care.

Our starting point is the bacteria-hypothesis of colorectal cancer, which addresses its pathogenetic and therapeutic implications. The second chapter is devoted to epidemiological issues, where the key issues are elaborated in three reviews and one comment. The latest developments in surgical techniques and treatments and different controversies in managing patient care are described in detail in chapter three, including single-incision laparoscopic surgery, robotic surgery, transanal TME, TAMIS and endoscopic techniques. Chapters four and five are focused on the medical and surgical treatment of colorectal metastases, including neo-adjuvant treatment, intraperitoneal therapy and HIPEC. Seven recent reviews and comments give a full insight into the latest knowledge and treatment principles in this area. The last chapter addresses the influence of anastomotic leakage on patients' outcomes and functional disturbances after rectal cancer surgery. Many challenges still remain, and we are at an early stage of acquiring the knowledge and skills needed to better understand the implications of surgical technology on clinical practice.

Special acknowledgement must be given to the authors, who are among the foremost experts in their fields, and who have contributed to the chapters. It would not be possible to publish this book without their cooperation and help. Also, we wish to express our deep appreciation to our publishers, AME publishing company, for giving us great support in publishing a book in such an innovative form and a very readable size. This book presents the state-of-the-art techniques at the cutting edge of the colorectal surgery field and makes a convincing case for what will be possible for future generations of surgeons. We hope that all clinicians involved in the treatment of colorectal disease will receive this volume with great interest.

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