



Foreword to Venous Surgery of the Mediastinum

Thoracic surgeons frequently encounter the great veins in the mediastinum. Large mediastinal masses or lung cancers which invade the superior vena cava or innominate veins pose a particular challenge. While these tumors were considered unresectable in the past, *en bloc* resection with reconstruction of the mediastinal veins can now be performed safely. Successfully performing these surgeries requires extensive knowledge of mediastinal anatomy, careful patient selection and workup, and consideration of the appropriate reconstruction and conduit material.

This special series on Venous Surgery of the Mediastinum will present several concise reviews on topics pertinent to the veins of the mediastinum. The anatomy of the mediastinum and common variants will be reviewed along with the drainage of the brain. Cannulation techniques and intraoperative bypass strategies will be discussed followed by reviews of large *en bloc* resections and the reconstruction options available. Finally, the last review will discuss chylopericardium, a rare condition which can occur after cardiothoracic surgery and with certain lymphatic diseases. We hope that this series will serve as a useful single resource on mediastinal great veins.

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