



Understanding the challenge in esophageal anastomosis

It has been a tremendous pleasure and honor to serve as guest editor of this *AOE* series on anastomotic techniques of minimally invasive surgery and management of its complications. Esophageal cancer is a devastating disease that is increasingly affecting patients globally. Esophageal cancer surgery, always seen as terrifying, has made significant progress in the last decade but surgeons still struggle to avoid life threatening complications like anastomotic leaks. When I was invited to contribute with a challenging topic for the journal, I immediately recognized the need to gather different expertise on such difficult task. We have all read and published on different ways of performing minimally invasive esophagectomies, but it is rare to find all available techniques in one source with a template format that allows comparing different experiences. The fact that we have so many different techniques tells a lot about how hard it is to standardize globally and to achieve optimal results. I am delighted to have convinced worldwide renown leaders in this field to contribute their knowledge for this special series. I want to take this opportunity to thank you all and to emphasize once again how honored I am for this responsibility. I invite all readers of this special series to go back and forth through all the details of each paper as I have done myself. At the end, you will have gained a lot of helpful tips that I am sure will improve your every-day practice. And even with all the tips, we know sometimes complications are unavoidable. The original manuscripts on how to handle those complications and the postoperative in general are another very relevant aspect of this guest series. I believe you will enjoy reading the contents as much as I did while editing them. But most of all, I truly hope that with this effort we have contributed a little step forward to benefit our patients.

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Alejandro Nieponice

Alejandro Nieponice^{1,2,3}, MD, PhD

¹*Chief, Esophageal Division, Hospital Universitario Fundacion Favaloro, Buenos Aires, Argentina;*

²*Faculty, McGowan Institute, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, USA;*

³*Director, IMETTYB, Universidad Favaloro, CONICET, Buenos Aires, Argentina.*

(Email: anieponi@ffavaloro.org)

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