Preface

In the rapidly evolving field of thoracic surgery, the introduction of uniportal video-assisted thoracic surgery (VATS) represents a paradigm shift, offering a less invasive alternative to traditional open surgery. This book, focusing on the cutting-edge techniques of Airway and Vascular Sleeve Reconstruction via uniportal VATS, serves as a beacon for thoracic surgeons worldwide, illuminating the path towards minimally invasive excellence. The contributors to this volume are pioneers and thought leaders who have meticulously charted the course of these intricate procedures, enhancing patient outcomes and advancing the surgical frontier.

The journey of thoracic surgery has been one of constant innovation and adaptation. The development of VATS in the early 1990s marked a significant milestone, reducing patient morbidity and facilitating quicker recovery times. However, the advent of uniportal VATS has further revolutionized the field, minimizing surgical trauma and offering unparalleled visualization and dexterity. This book is a comprehensive guide that delves into the technical nuances, strategic planning, and execution of airway and vascular sleeve reconstructions through a single incision. It synthesizes decades of collective experience and research into a coherent and practical framework for achieving surgical mastery.

Airway and vascular reconstruction surgeries are among the most challenging procedures in thoracic surgery, requiring precise technique, in-depth anatomical knowledge, and a high degree of dexterity. The transition to performing these complex surgeries through a uniportal approach underscores a commitment to patient-centered care, reducing postoperative pain, enhancing cosmetic outcomes, and promoting a quicker return to normal activities. This volume elucidates the essential principles, step-by-step techniques, and critical considerations necessary to navigate these surgeries successfully.

Each chapter of this book has been carefully curated to offer a balanced mixture of scientific evidence, practical advice, and expert insights. The initial sections provide a solid foundation in the anatomy, pathophysiology, and preoperative assessment critical to airway and vascular reconstruction. Subsequent chapters delve into the heart of uniportal VATS techniques, with detailed descriptions of surgical procedures, including lobectomy, sleeve resection, and complex reconstructions. The use of high-definition photographs, schematic diagrams, and operative videos enhances understanding and bridges the gap between theory and practice.

Moreover, this book does not shy away from the challenges and complications associated with uniportal VATS airway and vascular sleeve reconstruction. It offers a candid discussion on managing intraoperative difficulties, postoperative complications, and long-term outcomes, thereby preparing the surgeon for the realities of the operating room. Strategies for avoiding common pitfalls and maximizing patient safety are emphasized throughout, reflecting the authors' commitment to excellence in surgical practice.

Innovation in surgical education is another cornerstone of this volume. The traditional apprenticeship model of surgical training is evolving, with simulation, three-dimensional modeling, and virtual reality offering new avenues for skill acquisition.

This book explores these educational innovations, providing a roadmap for integrating advanced technologies into surgical training and practice. The authors advocate for a culture of continuous learning, where the sharing of knowledge and experiences propels the entire field forward.

In conclusion, this book is more than just a surgical manual; it is a testament to the relentless pursuit of improvement and innovation in thoracic surgery. It is intended not only for seasoned thoracic surgeons but also for residents, fellows, and the multidisciplinary team involved in the care of thoracic surgery patients. Through its pages, the reader will gain not just technical knowledge but also the wisdom to approach each patient with compassion, empathy, and a deep-seated commitment to achieving the best possible outcomes. As the field of thoracic surgery continues to advance, this book will undoubtedly remain an invaluable resource, guiding surgeons through the complexities of uniportal VATS airway and vascular sleeve reconstruction.



Chang Chen Department of Thoracic Surgery, Shanghai Pulmonary Hospital, Tongji University, Shanghai, China