

Although thymic surgery is an important general thoracic surgery, it has not been fully studied and discussed like oesophageal or lung surgery due to a much smaller number of cases.

Together with experts from several nationally renowned thoracic surgery and neurology centres, we wrote *Thymus Surgery* by summarizing cutting-edge knowledge and progress in surgical treatments in combination with the latest consensus clinical guidelines. This simple and easy-to-read book is a good reference for thymus surgery in clinical practice.

Compared to diseases of the lungs, oesophagus, and trachea, thymic disease is relatively rare and lacks surgical methods and treatment strategies that are fully validated by large-scale clinical data. As a result, clinical practice in regard to handling thymic disease has not been standardized. This book summarizes the current consensus clinical guidelines and the latest clinical evidence.

The book is divided into three parts. The first part introduces the basic information regarding the thymus, the pathology of common thymic diseases, and traditional surgical methods. The main purpose is to provide readers with some basic knowledge related to clinical work and enrich the readers' background knowledge to help understand the needs and design of thymic surgery. The second part introduces the latest surgical methods used in major hospitals and centres in China and their characteristics. This part emphatically introduces subxiphoid thymectomy, a well-known surgical method popularized in recent years, and presents the advantages and characteristics of the techniques used in subxiphoid thymectomy to help readers understand and compare different surgical approaches. The chapter "Decisions regarding thymoma surgery" discusses some hot issues, such as the selection of surgical methods, the surgical scope, and lymph node removal, and summarizes the updated evidence and data regarding some controversial issues in clinical practice, in order to help readers make decisions. The third part introduces the principles and progress in comprehensive non-surgical treatment of thymic diseases. It summarizes the achievements and innovations in the comprehensive treatment of this rare disease by our peers in internal medicine.

We apologize that we completed this book in haste, which might have inevitably resulted in some errors. We welcome the readers' point of view and comments in order to help us improve the book.

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