

The birth of a new book is always welcome, especially when it deals with an uncommon disease. *Thymus Surgery*, edited by Drs. Gening Jiang and Jiang Fan, from the Department of Thoracic Surgery of the Shanghai Pulmonary Hospital, and with contributions by 20 co-authors, compiles the updated knowledge on the surgical approach to thymic diseases, focusing on thymoma.

The book opens with three chapters on the generality and basic concepts of the thymus, including anatomy, physiology, classification, imaging and staging, followed by two chapters on myasthenia gravis and the specific topic of myasthenia crisis. The book continues with its largest part: seven chapters discussing all possible approaches to the thymus, from the classical open approach with its different incisions, to the various minimally invasive procedures, i.e., video-assisted thoracoscopic surgery, the transcervical approach, the subxiphoid approach and its variants—about which the Department of Thoracic Surgery of the Shanghai Pulmonary Hospital has a renowned expertise, and the robotic-assisted procedure from different sides. The book ends with a miscellaneous part dealing with reoperations, decision-making, general management, and the indications and results of non-surgical treatments, such as targeted therapies and immunotherapy. The chapters are relatively short and easy to read, are illustrated with drawings or pictures of the procedures that contribute to the understanding of their surgical details, and are well documented with adequate references.

Thymus Surgery represents mainly the experience of the Shanghai Pulmonary Hospital, as twelve out of twenty-two authors are from that institution; and it is led by thoracic surgeons with the contribution of one neurologist and three medical oncologists who assert the multidisciplinary nature of the book. In the past few years, the Shanghai Pulmonary Hospital has become a centre of pilgrimage for hundreds of thoracic surgeons from around the world who travel there to follow training courses, to observe and to learn the latest innovations in surgical techniques, especially uniportal video-assisted thoracoscopic surgery, but also the innovative subxiphoid and subcostal approaches. With thousands of operations every year, they can accumulate a large experience in many diseases, including the relatively rare conditions of the thymus. In this respect, the professionals of the Shanghai Pulmonary Hospital were well positioned to write a book like *Thymus Surgery*, a much-needed book in the field of thoracic surgery.

Trainees and certified thoracic surgeons alike will find in this book a well of information useful for their education and for performing their clinical and surgical practice. My final words are to congratulate the editors and co-authors on their initiative to put together all the necessary material for the integral management of thymic diseases, and on their success in achieving their objective.

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