

The role of the thoracic surgeon in managing patients with lung cancer is in a state of evolution. Traditionally, training and attainment of expertise in thoracic surgery, and indeed in any surgical discipline, has been centered on the disease process, learning technical operative skills, and managing the postoperative recovery of patients. With rapid advances in the understanding of lung cancer biology, perioperative physiologic responses, and development of non-operative local therapies for patients with lung neoplasms, this paradigm is shifting. The modern thoracic surgeon is expected to be well versed in the intricacies of cancer staging, optimal patient selection for surgery (and other options for local therapy), choosing and safely conducting the correct operation, and appropriately treating postoperative complications.

The wide scope of the knowledge and skillset required has led to the development of healthcare teams focused on optimizing patient outcomes and experience. These teams commonly comprise of thoracic surgeons, anesthesiologists, oncologists, surgical nurses, and operating room personnel. The current textbook is intended for not only the thoracic surgeon but also the entire care team and tremendously benefits from contributions by practitioners with different backgrounds and training.

The text encompasses a comprehensive body of literature addressing various aspects of patient selection and disease management. An initial section details the role of body mass index, body composition, and immune-nutritional factors and their impact on surgical outcomes. This is followed by a section describing the role of baseline function and performance status in determining postoperative recovery. With a gradual increase in the age at which patients are initially diagnosed with lung cancer, otherwise healthy octogenarians are often considered for surgery. An in-depth section on perioperative care and therapeutic strategy in elderly patients benefits from knowledge accrued in the care of geriatric patients and their unique needs. Distinct and highly detailed sections on technique of lung resection and the intraoperative physiologic management of patients would be of great interest to thoracic surgeons and anesthesiologists alike. The next section provides exhaustive information about enhanced recovery pathways after surgery and the care of patients with postoperative complications. Finally, a comparative summary of surgical and radiation therapy options for patients with lung cancer or intrapulmonary metastases provides guidance on appropriate patient selection for these options.

Each chapter in the book represents a contribution by leading experts in the field and imparts state of the art knowledge. The information is presented in an extremely reader-friendly format with many interesting illustrations and makes compelling reading. I am certain readers of this book will find clinical pearls that will influence their day-to-day practice and spur further investigations to enhance knowledge in the field.

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