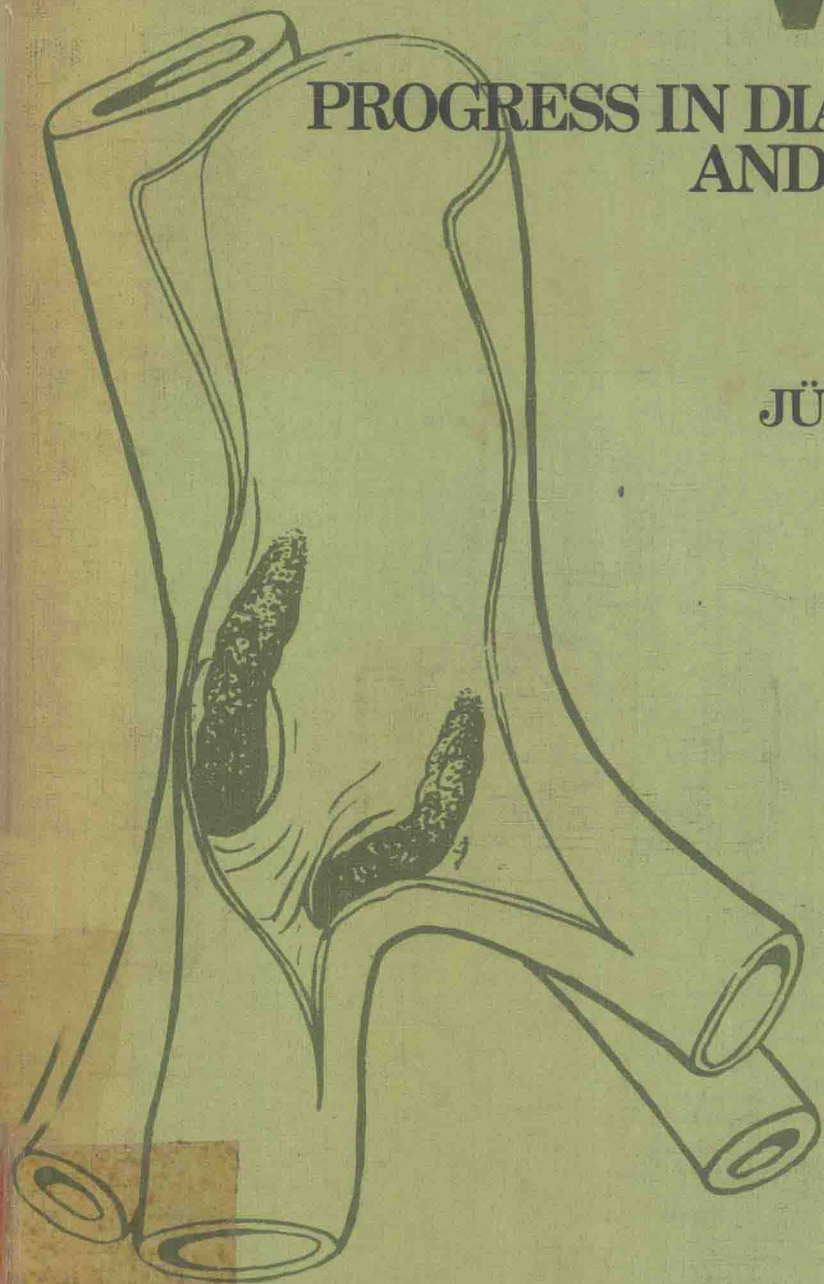


PELVIC AND ABDOMINAL VEINS

**PROGRESS IN DIAGNOSTICS
AND THERAPY**

**Editors:
ROBERT MAY
JÜRGEN WEBER**



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Progress in diagnostics and therapy

Proceedings of the Pelvic Vein Symposium,
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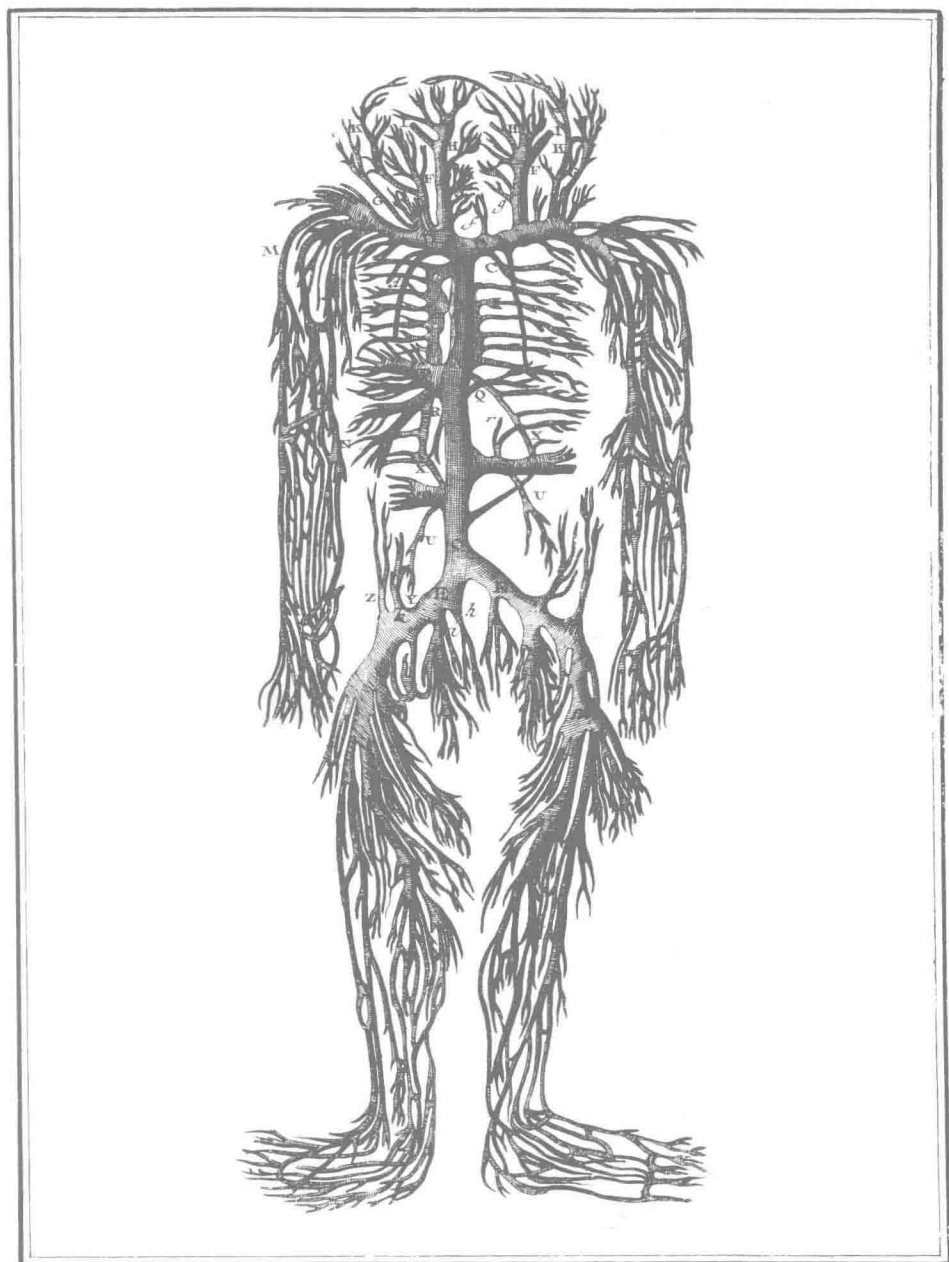
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Anatomie, Tronc de la Veine cave

(Engraving reproduced from Diderot's *Encyclopédie*, 1784.)

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PREFACE

Over 400 participants from 16 nations joined the Pelvic and Abdominal Vein Symposium, held on 11 and 12 October, 1980 in Igls, near Innsbruck, Austria.

The present volume, containing fifty scientific papers and seven editorial comments, incorporates the majority of the presentations made at this Symposium. Some eighty distinguished authors have contributed to the Proceedings, which faithfully reflect the wide variety of topics dealt with at the Symposium.

Two of them, Bernd Heyden and Lajos Soltész, have regrettably passed away during the preparation of the book. Their scientific contributions, both to the Symposium and to the Proceedings, bear testimony to the quality of their work and — we are sure — will serve as a lasting memory of the contributions they made in the field of phlebology.

The sections of the book correspond with the five main sessions of the Igls Symposium, dealing systematically with all the diagnostic and therapeutic aspects of the pelvic and abdominal venous disorders discussed. At the end of each section, a brief summary of these topics and the exchange of ideas of the leading authorities in their respective fields is given in the form of editorial comments. Where no consensus of opinion could be reached we, as editors, have expressed our personal views on the present state of affairs. We are quite satisfied that, with the emergence of new facts, some of these views might prove liable to correction in the near future, for — in the words of Robert Musil, the Austrian writer (1880–1942): ‘Certain errors are stepping stones towards the truth.’

Robert May, Innsbruck
Jürgen Weber, Hamburg

INTRODUCTION

Over the last decade, there has been considerable interest in abdominal and pelvic vein abnormalities along with refinement of some surgical approaches and the development of interventional techniques. As with other advances in medicine, contributors were from multiple medical surgical and imaging specialties, each with his vested interest and research in venous problems. In many instances, clinical and basic investigational studies have been published in scattered journals throughout the world. However, there was no concerted effort to crystallize the 'state of the art' by any individual or group until recently, when Drs. Robert May and Jürgen Weber coordinated a Pelvic Vein Symposium in Igls-Innsbruck, Austria, October 11–12, 1980, through the auspices of the Austrian Angiological Society, the German Angiological Society and the German Society for Phlebology and Proctology. Experts from Europe were joined by several distinguished physicians from the United States and a comprehensive symposium characterized by outstanding presentations and extensive discussions was held. Papers were presented in virtually all aspects of diagnosis and therapy in great detail by prestigious individuals in the field.

There was a structured approach to the techniques with modern modifications for evaluation of abdominal and pelvic veins. Because of the variations in anatomy, an in-depth discussion was held with several papers presented on congenital abnormalities and variations of the venous structures. Current modern concepts of venous sampling in the pararenal and suprarenal veins along with interventional occlusive and sclerosing therapy of the gonadal veins in varicoceles were also presented. A complete evaluation of the pelvic venous spur, surgical therapy of same, and an in-depth discussion of venous reconstruction and the Palma-Vollmar venous graft approach was presented. Inferior vena cava interruption with clinical results and follow-up observations with contrasting studies of the Mobin-Uddin filter and the Greenfield filter was evaluated with several papers and a lengthy discussion. Transcatheter thrombectomy in pulmonary embolism and the value of fibrinolytic agents was also an important aspect of the symposium.

Because of a lack of a coordinated compendium in this area, Drs. May and Weber decided to publish this symposium. As an invited guest from the United States, I had the opportunity to exchange a great deal of information with my colleagues in Europe. With the publication of this symposium, all interested individuals have a similar opportunity to assess, reconnoiter, and redirect, in some cases, their approach to problems of the abdominal and venous structures in man. There is also room for collaborative efforts.

This kind of dissemination of the advances in medicine will eventually benefit the

health needs of our patients. In the last analysis, that is the reason for virtually all clinical and medical symposiums, and the structured approach with the editorial comments and assessments best serves these needs.

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1. Actual diagnostic and angiotherapeutic techniques

