INTERNATIONAL TRENDS IN GENERAL THORACIC SURGERY



VOLUME 3

Benign Esophageal Disease

Tom R. DeMeester Hugoe R. Matthews

# INTERNATIONAL TRENDS IN GENERAL THORACIC VOLUME 3 SURGERY

# BENIGN ESOPHAGEAL DISEASE

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Reflux control in operations for achalasia

# **Foreword**

General thoracic surgery already has a glorious past. It has given birth to the modern discipline of cardiovascular surgery and has seen the prodigious growth of that discipline. It has developed the fundamental techniques of intrathoracic operations. The time has come to recognize the specialty of general thoracic surgery as a full-fledged discipline that is in the process of becoming progressively more distinct and unique. In many teaching centers it is already separated from both general surgical service and cardiovascular disciplines. The separate status presently held honors the surgical pioneers who made this recognition inevitable. However, continuing advances will require effective exchange of new ideas and steady reinforcement of the sense of identity that must remain the cornerstone of the edifice that has earned these past accolades. By stimulating the dialogue necessary for these goals to be attained, the current series of books is designed to help in generating an equally bright future

Although an enormous volume of information is available in textbooks, monographs, and journals concerning matters the practicing general thoracic surgeon may find of great interest, retrieval of information is not always simple. Textbooks may not contain the most up-to-date information because of their extended publication schedules. Relevant articles may be in journals that do not primarily relate to the individual specialty and therefore are overlooked. In addition, the language problem militates significantly against the ready transfer of information from one country to another. It was in an attempt to bridge these sorts of gaps that International Trends in General Thoracic Surgery was designed. We believe this forum will most effectively convey new information in relation to the practical aspects of actual patient care as well as emphasize the clinical application of the material.

This series of books was developed to deliberately foster international interplay on relevant topics as expeditiously as possible. Initially, biennial publication was planned, but the enthusiastic reception given the proposal led to an expansion of the horizons and an annual publica-

tion schedule. As the concept was refined, it was agreed that, as a general principle, an attempt should be made to cover major subjects in single-topic issues and provide a forum for discussion of other topics and diseases in multitopic volumes released in an alternating sequence. Editorial boards were chosen to ensure that attention would be drawn to new and important contributions from all geographic areas, thereby providing the broadest possible audience at the earliest possible moment. The contributors were asked to stress their personal concepts and proposals in order to engender a worthwhile exchange of opinions that would ultimately prove informative and stimulating for an international readership.

Coverage will be restricted to general thoracic surgical problems (including esophageal diseases), and no attempt will be made to include cardiovascular topics. Although emphasis will be placed on the practical aspects of patient care, an attempt will be made to review the relevant historical background whenever necessary for better understanding of complex issues. The application of new basic and clinical investigative studies will be discussed in their clinical contexts in order to maintain the emphasis on practical clinical issues.

We believe that by following the plan just outlined, this series of books will pay particular attention to the needs of the specific target groups for whom the books are intended: practicing general thoracic surgeons, general thoracic surgical trainees, referring physicians (including respirologists and gastroenterologists), and of course the reference resources housed in university, hospital, and inservice libraries. In most instances, the information presented will also be of particular interest to many other allied disciplines, notably oncologists, radiotherapists, otolaryngologists, emergency care physicians, and general internists.

North American and European editorial boards have been created to meet annually to select topics for consideration and choose knowledgeable authors who are best able to present the requested information from a broad base of

clinical experience. An international advisory board has also been constituted to ensure an effective international approach to the process of topic selection and author choice. The editors-inchief wish to ackowledge their indebtedness to the many members of these various boards, who have accepted their responsibilities conscientiously and effectively.

Undoubtedly, as time passes, the manner in which editorial policy is pursued in attempting to achieve these objectives may well change as part of a natural evolutionary process. Nonetheless, if the fundamental aim continues to represent the basis for future decisions, we feel that the developing series will provide a useful purpose—provided the books satisfy the requirements of the target audiences. The editorial boards are determined to make every effort to merit a continuing favorable reception, since it is clearly recognized that readership acceptance must be the final arbiter of the books' value.

The editors-in-chief would be remiss indeed were they not to express—on behalf of all the board members—their warm appreciation of the efforts made by the guest editors and those who have contributed in such willing fashion to ensure that the goals established for this ongoing series are met. Its eventual success will, assuredly,

depend entirely on the dedicated fashion in which they have accepted their responsibilities.

The appearance of thoracic surgical units in teaching hospitals ensures the availability of consultative services that will provide knowledgeable advice regarding the indications for surgical investigation and treatment as well as experienced management of serious postoperative problems. It is to be hoped that the books in this series will support and strengthen the role of these units in clarifying those situations in which complex issues and unusual pathologic conditions require highly sophisticated—rather than routine or traditional—therapeutic approaches.

The W.B. Saunders Company published the first two volumes (*Lung Cancer* and *Major Challenges*). With the release of volume 3, The C.V. Mosby Company takes on the responsibility for publication. The editors-in-chief join with the guest editors and their authors in expressing sincere appreciation to Thomas Manning and Elaine Steinborn for their enthusiastic support and knowledgeable guidance in the production of the current volume and for their sensible advice in the planning of future issues.

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# **Preface**

Progress in surgery depends upon experience in the care of patients with diseases amenable to surgical therapy, accurate record keeping of the experience, reflection on the experience, structuring of subsequent clinical experience or laboratory models to answer questions raised by the reflection, and communication of the results of these inquiries to others in a convincing, rational manner.

Those experienced in this art realize that after all the effort, it takes years before their concepts are accepted, if ever, by their peers. We all are biased in favor of our own analytical abilities and become skillful in defending them, as well as in modifying the concepts of others in an effort to support our own thoughts. The process is called discussion, and is enjoyed by the spectator or reader as much as any sport. It is fueled by ego, jealousy, popularity, economics, altruism, and the love for travel. Hopefully what emerges is truth, and surprisingly it often is—if the point of view

is pertinent, if there are no ongoing economic pressures to suppress it, and if those who have defended most eloquently their concepts, though erroneous, have reached ages at which they no longer have the energy or the desire to rise again.

What follows in this book reflects this process. The subject is benign esophageal disease, and the essayists and discussants come from around the world. As a consequence, the reader is exposed to various views, some conflicting, and to the current thinking regarding esophageal physiology, diagnosis of esophageal disease, gastroesophageal reflux disease, esophageal strictures, and motility disorders. The authors are well known, have first-hand experience with the issues they address or discuss, and are skilled in communication. The reader will be entertained while being instructed

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