GENERAL THORACIC SURGERY

fifth edition

volume

2

Thomas III. Shields

Joseph LoCicero III Ronald B. Ponn



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Preface

The fifth edition of *General Thoracic Surgery* has been extensively expanded and revised to present comprehensive coverage of the ever-expanding field of general thoracic surgery. The pertinent information necessary for understanding and management of the many problems related to the thorax and its contents that may confront the general thoracic surgeon is presented in exquisite detail. To ensure the attainment of this goal, I have enlisted the aid of Dr. Joseph LoCicero III and Dr. Ronald B. Ponn as associate editors. Together, we have selected acknowledged experts from many fields of endeavor: the basic sciences; pulmonary medicine; radiology; nuclear medicine; pathology; bronchoesophagology; anesthesiology; endocrinology; medical, radiologic, and surgical oncology; and general thoracic surgery, as well as other surgical specialties, to contribute their expertise to this text.

There are 29 sections, as well as an appendix devoted to presentation of the basics of statistical analysis that has become so important in the evaluation of clinical trials. There are 190 chapters, of which 54 are new. The new chapters primarily present advances in the basic sciences, diagnostic procedures, and surgical techniques that are relevant to the general thoracic surgeon. The sections on Carcinoma of the Lung and Other Tumors of the Lung contain many of the new chapters to more extensively cover these important fields. Likewise, the sections on the Mediastinum have been greatly expanded and essentially present the detailed and updated coverage that was originally published in the text *Mediastinal Surgery* by the senior editor in 1991. A few of the chapters from the fourth edition remain unchanged, but the vast majority of the previous chapters have been rewritten by new authors or have been extensively revised by the previous authors to be current with the literature through 1998 and early 1999.

As with any text that becomes more inclusive, repetition and differences in opinion have become common. These, within bounds, are healthy, as each author frequently views the same subject from a different vantage point and adds additional references that are of value in understanding the subject under consideration. Cross-references again are in abundance. Effort has been made to further expand the index so that it appropriately reflects all the subjects included in the text.

My associates and I wish to thank the many contributors from here in North America and abroad in Europe, Asia, and South America for the effort that they have expended in preparation of their contributions to the fifth edition. Each is of inestimable value and enhances the validity and importance of the text. We believe this text should not only be of interest to the thoracic surgeon but also useful to our colleagues in other specialties who have an interest in the chest and its contents.

Thomas W. Shields Senior Editor

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