

OPERATIVE SURGERY

Fundamental International Techniques

Head and Neck
Part I

Edited by

J. S. P. Wilson

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Introduction

In recent years, there have been many advances in the field of head and neck surgery, both in the ablation of the tumour and the reconstruction of the consequent defect, and this new edition has been greatly expanded to take these into account. Very radical ablation is now possible, but the types of major resection this involves are more likely to result in deformities unacceptable to both patient and surgeon, especially when the tumours are those invading the soft tissues and bones of the face. Therefore, much of the text and illustrations in these volumes has been directed to dealing with the problems of surgical reconstruction and prosthetic rehabilitation.

The first section of the book deals with the basic principles of head and neck surgery and the applications of these principles are discussed in more detail in later sections. It was felt that this would be the most useful approach for the reader, but inevitably some overlap may have resulted. Microvascular surgical techniques have only been referred to in the basic principles section as they are applicable to so many repairs, especially in the upper third of the head. They allow a one-stage reconstruction without necessitating unnatural positioning of the patient's limbs. However, a skilled team of microvascular surgeons and considerable operating time must be available if these methods are to succeed.

As well as chapters dealing with the principles of achievement of skin cover, lining and support, the first section includes a number of chapters on computed tomographic scanning, whose advent has revolutionized pre-operative assessment. Although CT scans may not define operability, they certainly indicate to the clinician what is inoperable. Also dealt with are planned combinations of surgery, radiation and chemotherapy, as in certain categories of tumour such a multidisciplinary approach may be more successful.

Subsequent sections deal with the specific treatment of tumours invading each area in the head and neck, and although it has not been possible to include every new technique, it is earnestly hoped that the reader will feel he has been provided with a reasonable armamentarium of skills.

A wide range of surgical specialties has contributed to our present state of knowledge of the management of head and neck tumours and I would like to thank all the international representatives of these specialties who have contributed their invaluable expertise and experience to these volumes. I would also like to express my gratitude to the many medical artists without whose skill this work would not have been possible.

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OPERATIVE SURGERY

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