

Thoracic Surgery: Surgical Management of Pleural Diseases



VOLUME 6

INTERNATIONAL TRENDS IN GENERAL THORACIC SURGERY

**Jean Deslauriers
Leon K. Lacquet**

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THORACIC SURGERY: SURGICAL MANAGEMENT OF PLEURAL DISEASES

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VOLUME 6

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The role of pleuropneumectomy in the treatment of diffuse malignant mesothelioma of the pleura

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Intrapleural rupture in pulmonary and hepatic hydatid Echinococcus disease

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The changing bacterial spectrum and antibiotic choices

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Prophylaxis and management of postpneumectomy empyemas

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Diagnostic thoracoscopy: its role in the modern-day surgical approach to the pleural space

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Use of ultrasonography, computed tomography, and nuclear magnetic resonance imaging in the diagnosis of pleural diseases

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Chylothorax complicating cardiovascular surgery

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New contributions to the understanding of pleural space structure and function

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Catamenial pneumothorax: pathophysiology and management

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Prophylaxis of iatrogenic pneumothorax

Gas transfer in the pleural space

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Principles and techniques of chest drainage and suction

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Contribution of epidemiology and biology to the comprehension of causes and mechanisms of mesothelioma

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Empyema: principles of management—an old problem revisited

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Surgical approach to chronic empyema: decortication and muscle transposition

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Surgical anatomy of the pleural space

More about chest tubes and suction systems

Diagnosis and management of spontaneous pneumothorax in the young adult: role of parietal pleurectomy

Chylothorax complicating pulmonary resection

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Surgical anatomy of the pleural space

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Life-endangering pneumothorax in the geriatric patient with bullous emphysema

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Andrews technique of thoracomyoplastic

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Surgical approach to the chronic empyema: space sterilization

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The anatomy and physiology of the thoracic duct

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Catamenial pneumothorax: pathophysiology and management

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New concepts in the staging of mesotheliomas

Role of open thoracotomy in undiagnosed pleural diseases

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Discussion of "Prophylaxis and management of postlobectomy infected spaces"

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Use of pleural brushing for the diagnosis of pleural effusions

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Chylothorax complicating pulmonary resection

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Neonatal pneumothorax

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Difficulties in interpreting pleural histology

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New contributions to the understanding of pleural space structure and function

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The Eloesser flap: past and present

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Contribution of epidemiology and biology to the comprehension of causes and mechanisms of mesothelioma

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Management of pneumothorax in the emphysematous patient

Primary spontaneous mediastinal emphysema

Pleural complications of abdominal diseases

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Role of open thoracotomy in undiagnosed pleural diseases

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Prophylaxis of iatrogenic pneumothorax

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Definitions, pathology, and significance of parapneumonic effusions

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The malignant pleural effusion: role of the pleuroperitoneal shunt

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Life-endangering pneumothorax in the geriatric patient with bullous emphysema

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Comprehensive approach to diagnosis and management of mesothelioma

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Chylothorax complicating pulmonary resection

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Diagnostic approach to the patient with pleural effusion: cytologic analysis of pleural fluid

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Chylothorax in children: pathophysiology and management

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The malignant pleural effusion: tissue diagnosis and treatment

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Pleurodesis by mechanical pleural abrasion for spontaneous pneumothorax

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Surgical technique: empyemectomy

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Points to consider when choosing a biopsy method in cases of pleuritis of unknown origin, with special reference to thoracoscopy

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Pleural tuberculosis

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Acute postpneumonic empyema treated by intercostal tube drainage with suction and pleural washing but without rib resection

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Surgical approach to chronic empyema: decortication and muscle transposition

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*Management of empyemas: the problems of associated bronchopleural fistula
Chylopericardium, bronchochylorrhea, and chylothorax in pulmonary lymphangiectasis
Treatment of the pleural cavity with low-frequency ultrasound for prevention or control of infection*

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Role of early thoracotomy in the treatment of acute empyema

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Tension pneumothorax

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New concepts in the staging of mesotheliomas

Comprehensive approach to diagnosis and management of mesothelioma

Intrapleural chemotherapy for malignant pleural effusion

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The captive lung: indications and techniques of decortication

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Chylopericardium, bronchochylorrhea, and chylothorax in pulmonary lymphangiectasis

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Chylothorax in adults: pathophysiology and management

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Surgical approach to chronic empyema: decortication and muscle transposition

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Discussion of "Prophylaxis and management of postpneumonectomy empyemas"

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The Eloesser flap: past and present

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Surgical approach to the chronic empyema: thoracoplasty

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Surgical approach to the chronic empyema: space sterilization

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Primary spontaneous mediastinal emphysema

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Principles and techniques of chest drainage and suction

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Diagnostic approach to the patient with pleural effusion: cytologic analysis of pleural fluid

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Surgical approach to the chronic empyema: space sterilization

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The role of pleuropneumectomy in the treatment of diffuse malignant mesothelioma of the pleura

Contralateral pneumothorax occurring after pulmonary surgery

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Role of chemical methods to induce adhesive pleuritis

Thoracoscopy: a rediscovery

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Pleural amebiasis

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Surgical approach to the chronic empyema: thoracoplasty

Foreword to preceding volumes

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 ex-

pansion of the horizons and an annual publication 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 multi-topic 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