

Concepts and Controversies in
CARDIOVASCULAR
SURGERY

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Concepts and Controversies in **CARDIOVASCULAR SURGERY**

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Preface

Open-heart surgery has been carried out for almost three decades. Many of the earlier obstacles have been overcome, and certain concepts are now accepted by most cardiac surgeons. The operations are being carried out with increasing success despite complex intracardiac pathology or advanced degrees of myocardial failure or damage. Consequently, cardiac surgery is being offered to both the extremely young and to the elderly patient. One of the main reasons for the rapid progress in this field is the free exchange of information and the readiness of the cardiac surgeon to benefit from the experience of colleagues. This is particularly true when there is disagreement concerning the management of a particular problem.

In order to expose selected subjects of controversy to wide discussion, an international faculty of experts (and other participants) assembled in Jerusalem, Israel for three full days (May 31 to June 2, 1982) to participate in a symposium entitled "Cardiac Surgery Update in Jerusalem." The observer was thus presented with the extensive combined experience of recognized leaders in the field. At the conclusion of each session, he was in possession of sufficient information to enable him to make his own decision regarding his future approach to the problems under discussion.

This monograph is the result of the deliberations in Jerusalem, and represents the viewpoints of invited speakers. The material is representative of the four sessions of the Congress which aroused the most interest and discussion. The first section includes contributions mainly from the United States and represents the present approach to the problem of combined coronary and extracranial vascular disease. The wide variation of opinions and constant debates surrounding this subject prompted us to include a number of authors and papers on this subject. While it might appear to be somewhat duplicative, we felt it most important for the

reader to have the benefit of opinions from those individuals with a large experience in this field to make it easier for him to formulate his own attitude toward this problem.

The section on surgery for valvular disease is devoted entirely to the experience with adults and would have been enhanced by contributions on valve replacement in children because of the specific problem of accelerated degeneration of bioprosthetic valves in the very young. Section III raises interesting points for future research and progress in the field of myocardial protection and preservation. The final group of papers concentrates on the management of the failing heart and includes many of the newer modalities now available as well as an update on previous approaches.

The continuing and rapid advances in the subjects discussed make it entirely probable that most of the papers will require revision in the coming years.

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Joseph B. Borman

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**SURGERY OF
COMBINED CORONARY
AND EXTRACRANIAL
VASCULAR DISEASES**

