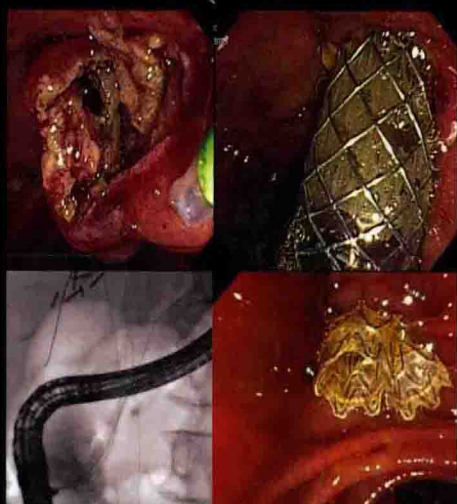


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# ERCP

**Todd H. Baron**  
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**Second Edition**



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# ERCP

## Second Edition

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ERCP

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# Foreword

It has been 5 years since the first edition of *ERCP* was published. The original foreword, "ERCP Past, Present, and Future," may have been prescient. It recognized the importance of other technologies, including CT and MR scanning, and only touched upon EUS as a diagnostic supplement to these imaging techniques and to ERCP as well. In the intervening years, EUS has evolved as a complementary, and occasionally competitive, technique to retrograde cholangiopancreatography. The second edition of *ERCP* acknowledges this evolution with chapters devoted to EUS access of the pancreaticobiliary tree for diagnosis as well as transluminal and rendezvous therapy. As such, EUS has supplemented, and sometimes supplanted, traditional therapies such as interventional radiology and conventional surgery. However, as we are mindful of the past, we have included a chapter on the history of ERCP.

What else has happened over the past 5 years? The obesity epidemic has hit Western society and elsewhere in the developed world. As bariatric surgeries have flourished and long-length endoscopic (double/single balloon enteroscopes, spiral overtube-assisted) ERCPs have become commonplace, as have laparoscope-assisted transgastric approaches to the pancreaticobiliary tree (see Chapter 29). Our prediction is that although currently limited to tertiary care and referral institutions, transgastric ERCP and evolving methods to perform ERCP in gastric bypass patients will be performed by many more centers in the years to come.

What else? ERCP has become more globalized. ERCP is in the domain of developed countries, but the techniques described in the second edition of *ERCP* are replacing surgery throughout the developing world. Although "one-time-use"

accessories may be repeatedly reprocessed until dysfunction, an issue of geography and economic resources will continue to evolve because of disposal of these accessories.

Finally, there have been studies over the past 5 years that discuss not only ERCP indications and techniques but also when other imaging procedures may be safer and more appropriate. The chapter on radiologic imaging by Morgan and Schueler now includes radiation safety. We are aware that EUS may be a better diagnostic tool for chronic pancreatitis than ERCP, that planning endoscopic therapy for complex hilar lesions without preceding MRCP or spiral CT for a roadmap is ill-advised, and that both EUS and MRCP can diagnose pancreas divisum in the majority of patients without need for direct pancreatography. Perhaps more importantly are studies suggesting that routine biliary decompression in resectable patients with distal malignant obstructive jaundice is unnecessary and may be associated with higher rates of adverse events than in individuals who undergo surgery alone. Likewise, differentiation between walled-off pancreatic necrosis (WOPN) and pancreatic pseudocysts has precluded therapeutic endoscopic misadventures. Finally, procedural techniques have evolved to minimize, but have not eliminated, the ERCPist's nemesis, acute post-ERCP pancreatitis. These techniques include guidewire cannulation, placement of small-diameter pancreatic duct stents, use of rectal NSAIDs, and most importantly, as defined in the chapter on indications and contraindications, avoiding use of this technology for marginal indications.

With the foregoing as background, the Editors and individual chapter authors proffer state-of-the-art information and imaging for *ERCP, second edition*.

## Chapter 1 Techniques 101

### 11 Cannulation of the Major Papilla 104

Michael J. Soave

### 12 Access Through Papillotomy 135

Andrew G. Gellert and Gary A. Jay

### 13 Splinting of Oddi Manometry 174

David S. Farn

### 14 Biliary Sphincterotomy 129

David S. Farn

### 17 Balloon Dilatation of the Native and Postcholecystectomy Papilla 110

Chen Ho Hsieh

### 18 Stone Extraction 151

William R. Jorgensen and Robert W. Jorgensen

### 19 Pancreatic Sphincterotomy 188

Jonathan M. Susskind and Jonathan S. Fain

### 20 Minor Papilla Cannulation and Splinted Intubation 178

Robert W. Jorgensen and William R. Jorgensen

## Section II Approach to Clinical Problems 301

### 22 Pancreatic Ductum, Biliary Cysts, and Other Congenital Anomalies 301

Mark Jorgensen

### 23 Approach to the Dilated Bile Duct and Biliaryobilia 373

Robert W. Jorgensen and Jonathan S. Fain

### 24 The Dilated Pancreatic Duct 343

Michael J. Soave and Robert W. Jorgensen

### 25 Ampullary Neoplasia 350

Robert W. Jorgensen and Jonathan S. Fain

### 26 Squamous Biliary Carcinoma 324

Jonathan M. Susskind and Robert W. Jorgensen

### 27 Well-Differentiated Biliary Carcinoma of the Hilum and Intrahepatic Ducts 326

Jonathan M. Susskind and Robert W. Jorgensen

### 28 Indeterminate Biliary Lesions 345

Robert W. Jorgensen and Jonathan S. Fain

# Acknowledgments

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# Video Contents

## Section I General Topics

### Chapter 7 Adverse Events of ERCP: Prediction, Prevention, and Management

- Video 7.1 Post-sphincterotomy oozing
- Video 7.2 Post-ampullectomy bleeding—hemoclip
- Video 7.3 Guidewire perforation of the bile duct
- Video 7.4 Retroperitoneal perforation
- Video 7.5 Retroperitoneal perforation

## Section II Techniques

### Chapter 13 Cannulation of the Major Papilla

- Video 13.1 Wire lead technique of cannulation
- Video 13.2 Wire lead technique of cannulation
- Video 13.3 Needle-knife sphincterotomy
- Video 13.4 Needle-knife sphincterotomy
- Video 13.5 Needle-knife sphincterotomy

### Chapter 14 Access (Precut) Papillotomy

- Video 14.1 Fistulotomy: Ampullary tumor
- Video 14.2 Fistulotomy: Ampullary tumor
- Video 14.3 Precut from above the orifice
- Video 14.4 Impacted stone
- Video 14.5 Precut above the pancreatic stent

### Chapter 15 Sphincter of Oddi Manometry

- Video 15.1 Sphincter of Oddi manometry

### Chapter 16 Biliary Sphincterotomy

- Video 16.1 Biliary sphincterotomy and prophylactic pancreatic duct stenting in sphincter of Oddi dysfunction
- Video 16.2 Biliary EST and a double wire technique
- Video 16.3 Biliary EST followed by sphincteroplasty for stone removal
- Video 16.4 Biliary sphincterotomy and sphincteroplasty in Billroth II anatomy

### Chapter 17 Balloon Dilation of the Native and Postsphincterotomy Papilla

- Video 17.1 Balloon dilation of the major papilla and extraction of the bile duct stone
- Video 17.2 Sphincterotomy and balloon dilation of the major papilla and stone extraction of the bile duct stone
- Video 17.3 Balloon dilation of the major papilla and extraction of the bile duct stone
- Video 17.4 Balloon dilation of the major papilla and extraction of the bile duct stone
- Video 17.5 Balloon dilation of the major papilla
- Video 17.6 Balloon dilation of the major papilla and extraction of the bile duct stone

- Video 17.7 Balloon dilation of the major papilla and extraction of the bile duct stone

### Chapter 19 Pancreatic Sphincterotomy

- Video 19.1 Pancreatic sphincterotomy

### Chapter 20 Minor Papilla Cannulation and Sphincterotomy

- Video 20.1 Minor papilla cannulation and sphincterotomy

### Chapter 22 Biliary Metal Stent Insertion

- Video 22.1 Self-expandable metal stent placement
- Video 22.2 Biliary self-expandable stent placement
- Video 22.3 Biliary self-expandable stent placement

### Chapter 23 Pancreatobiliary Stent Removal: Migrated and Nonmigrated

- Video 23.1 Endoscopic technique for the extraction of pancreatic stents: Direct grasping with a polypectomy snare
- Video 23.2 Endoscopic technique for the extraction of pancreatic stents: Lasso technique
- Video 23.3 Endoscopic technique for the extraction of pancreatic stents: Dormia basket technique
- Video 23.4 Endoscopic technique for the extraction of pancreatic stents: Fragmentation and direct grasping
- Video 23.5 Endoscopic technique for the extraction of pancreatic stents: Snare and forceps

### Chapter 25 Pancreatoscopy

- Video 25.1 Video pancreatoscopy of intraductal papillary mucinous neoplasm
- Video 25.2 IPMN biopsy under direct vision

### Chapter 26 Cholangioscopy

- Video 26.1 Biliary sphincterotomy, cholangioscopy, and bile duct removal
- Video 26.2 Cholangioscopy with intraductal EHL of bile duct stones
- Video 26.3 Cholangioscopy showing left hepatic duct extrinsic compression
- Video 26.4 Cholangioscopy showing infiltrative bile duct cancer
- Video 26.5 Cholangioscopy with intraductal EHL of bile duct stones
- Video 26.6 Cholangioscopy showing nodular bile duct cancer
- Video 26.7 Cholangioscopy showing papillary mucinous biliary adenocarcinoma
- Video 26.8 Demonstration of room setup for cholangioscopy

- Video 26.9 Demonstration of single operator cholangioscopy technique
- Video 26.10 Videocholangioscopy
- Video 26.11 Image-enhanced videocholangioscopy using NBI
- Video 26.12 1.9 Fr to 3 Fr electrohydraulic lithotripsy (EHL) or laser lithotripsy using holmium YAG and FREDDY

## **Chapter 29 ERCP in Surgically Altered Anatomy**

- Video 29.1 Cholangiography in patient with Roux-en-Y hepaticojejunostomy

## **Chapter 31 Endoscopic Ultrasound-Assisted Access to the Pancreatic Duct**

- Video 31.1 EUS-assisted access to the pancreatic duct

## **Section III Approach to Clinical Problems**

### **Chapter 41 Biliary Surgery Complications Including Liver Transplantation**

- Video 41.1 Bilio-pulmonary fistula
- Video 41.2 Bilio-pleural fistula and biliary stent placement
- Video 41.3 Strictured hepaticojejunostomy treated endoscopically

### **Chapter 44 Pancreaticobiliary Pain and Suspected Sphincter of Oddi Dysfunction**

- Video 44.1 Biliary cannulation using a manometry catheter without contrast injection, freehand without biliary cannulation
- Video 44.2 Biliary injection of contrast and pancreatic cannulation using a manometry catheter without contrast
- Video 44.3 Biliary manometry and sphincterotomy
- Video 44.4 Placement of a 3 Fr pigtail pancreatic duct stent
- Video 44.5 Placement of a 5 Fr straight pancreatic duct stent
- Video 44.6 Pancreatic and biliary sphincterotomy with pancreatic duct stent placement for SOD
- Video 44.7 Pancreatic and biliary sphincterotomy with pancreatic duct stent placement for SOD
- Video 44.8 Biliary sphincterotomy for SOD
- Video 44.9 Use of dilute methylene blue to identify the pancreatic orifice after biliary sphincterotomy for SOD

### **Chapter 45 Sclerosing Cholangitis**

- Video 45.1 Endoscopic treatment of dominant primary sclerosing cholangitis stricture

### **Chapter 46 Tropical Parasitic Infestations**

- Video 46.1 Endoscopic biliary sphincterotomy to facilitate extraction of hydatid cysts and worms

- Video 46.2 Use of balloon catheter following biliary sphincterotomy

## **Chapter 47 Recurrent Pyogenic Cholangitis**

- Video 47.1 Stones and strictures in both intrahepatic and extrahepatic ducts
- Video 47.2 Use of ultraslim endoscope for direct visualization
- Video 47.3 Cholangioscope-guided biopsy
- Video 47.4 Shock waves generated at the tip of the probe
- Video 47.5 Strictures, dilations, and ductal deformity after stone removal
- Video 47.6 Benign mucosal hyperplasia or papillary projection
- Video 47.7 Cholangioscopy showing intrahepatic ductal stricture with proximal stone
- Video 47.8 Cholangioscopy showing intrahepatic purulent drainage

## **Chapter 48 Cystic Lesions of the Pancreas**

- Video 48.1 EUS-guided ethanol ablation of pancreatic cyst

## **Chapter 51 Pancreatic Interventions in Acute Pancreatitis: Ascites, Fistulae, Leaks, and Other Disruptions**

- Video 51.1 Transduodenal pancreatic duct decompression
- Video 51.2 Transpapillary pseudocyst drainage and DPD decompression in pancreatic pleural effusion
- Video 51.3 Internal pancreatic duct fistula/duodenal abscess treated with pancreatic duct stone retrieval/stent placement/effusion

## **Chapter 52 Chronic Pancreatitis: Stones and Strictures**

- Video 52.1 Endoscopic removal of pancreatic duct stones

## **Chapter 53 Endoscopic Drainage of Pancreatic Pseudocysts, Abscesses, and Walled-Off (Organized) Necrosis**

- Video 53.1 Endoscopic gastric drainage of pancreatic pseudocyst
- Video 53.2 Endoscopic transduodenal drainage of pancreatic necrosis
- Video 53.3 Endoscopic transduodenal debridement of pancreatic necrosis
- Video 53.4 Endoscopic transduodenal debridement of pancreatic necrosis
- Video 53.5 Use of partially covered and fully covered self-expandable stents to establish percutaneous access for endoscopic necrosectomy
- Video 53.6 Transgastric drainage of pancreatic necrosis

# Contents

## Section I General Topics 1

- 1 **Four Decades: The History of ERCP** 2  
*Lee McHenry and Glen Lehman*
- 2 **The ERCP Room** 10  
*Steven A. Edmundowicz*
- 3 **Radiologic Issues and Radiation Safety during ERCP** 16  
*Desiree E. Morgan and Beth Schueler*
- 4 **Endoscopes, Guidewires, and Accessories** 32  
*Sushil K. Ahlawat and Firas H. Al-Kawas*
- 5 **Sedation in ERCP** 46  
*Gregory A. Coté*
- 6 **Indications for and Contraindications to ERCP** 51  
*John Baillie*
- 7 **Adverse Events of ERCP: Prediction, Prevention, and Management** 57  
*Martin L. Freeman*
- 8 **ERCP Training** 66  
*Juergen Hochberger, Juergen Maiss, and Todd H. Baron*
- 9 **Preparation for ERCP** 73  
*John T. Maple*
- 10 **Principles of Electrosurgery** 80  
*Petros Benias and David L. Carr-Locke*
- 11 **Quality Issues and Measures in ERCP** 85  
*Amer A. Alkhatib and Douglas O. Faigel*
- 12 **Medicolegal Issues in ERCP** 92  
*Peter Cotton and James T. Frakes*

## Section II Techniques 103

- 13 **Cannulation of the Major Papilla** 104  
*Michael J. Bourke*
- 14 **Access (Precut) Papillotomy** 116  
*Paul Kortan and Gary May*
- 15 **Sphincter of Oddi Manometry** 124  
*Evan L. Fogel*
- 16 **Biliary Sphincterotomy** 129  
*Horst Neuhaus*
- 17 **Balloon Dilation of the Native and Postsphincterotomy Papilla** 139  
*Chan Sup Shim*
- 18 **Stone Extraction** 152  
*Catherine B. Ngo and Joseph W. Leung*
- 19 **Pancreatic Sphincterotomy** 166  
*Jonathan M. Buscaglia and Anthony N. Kalloo*
- 20 **Minor Papilla Cannulation and Sphincterotomy** 178  
*Pier Alberto Testoni and Alberto Mariani*

- 21 **Plastic Pancreaticobiliary Stents and Nasopancreaticobiliary Tubes: Concepts and Insertion Techniques** 188  
*Todd H. Baron*
- 22 **Biliary Metal Stent Insertion** 200  
*Brintha K. Enestvedt and Gregory G. Ginsberg*
- 23 **Pancreaticobiliary Stent Removal: Migrated and Nonmigrated** 212  
*Everson L.A. Artifon, Juan J. Vila, and Jose Pinhata Otoch*
- 24 **Papillectomy and Ampullectomy** 222  
*Shayan Irani and Richard A. Kozarek*
- 25 **Pancreatoscopy** 234  
*Tadashi Kodama and Tatsuya Koshitani*
- 26 **Cholangioscopy** 243  
*Peter B. Kelsey, Takao Itoi, and Raj J. Shah*
- 27 **ERCP in Children** 254  
*Victor L. Fox*
- 28 **ERCP in Pregnancy** 264  
*Ara B. Sahakian and Priya A. Jamidar*
- 29 **ERCP in Surgically Altered Anatomy** 270  
*Simon K. Lo*
- 30 **Echoendoscopic Ultrasound-Guided Biliary Drainage** 289  
*Marc Giovannini, Erwan Bories, and Félix Ignacio Téllez Ávila*
- 31 **Endoscopic Ultrasound-Assisted Access to the Pancreatic Duct** 294  
*Larissa L. Fujii and Michael J. Levy*

## Section III Approach to Clinical Problems 301

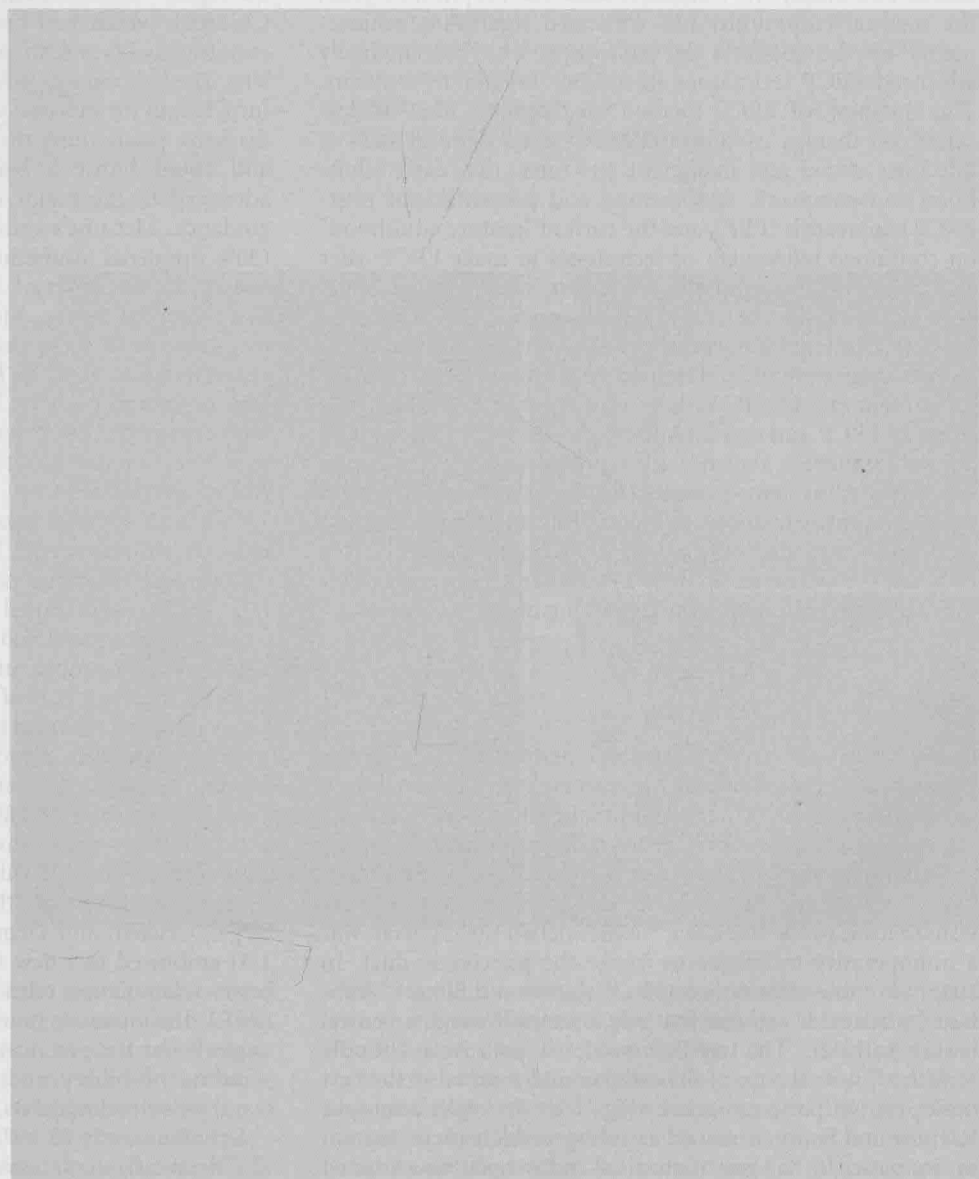
- 32 **Pancreas Divisum, Biliary Cysts, and Other Congenital Anomalies** 302  
*Mark Topazian*
- 33 **Approach to the Dilated Bile Duct and Pneumobilia** 313  
*Pari Shah, Geoffrey Spencer, and Michael L. Kochman*
- 34 **The Dilated Pancreatic Duct** 323  
*Michelle A. Anderson and Anoop Prabhu*
- 35 **Ampullary Neoplasia** 330  
*Paul Fockens and Ian D. Norton*
- 36 **Malignant Biliary Obstruction: Distal** 342  
*Sandeep Krishnan and Douglas Pleskow*
- 37 **Malignant Biliary Obstruction of the Hilum and Proximal Bile Ducts** 356  
*Savreet Sarkaria and Michel Kahaleh*
- 38 **Indeterminate Biliary Stricture** 365  
*Bret T. Petersen*



- 39 **Combined Biliary and Duodenal Obstruction** 378  
*Kathryn R. Byrne and Douglas G. Adler*
- 40 **Benign Biliary Strictures** 383  
*Guido Costamagna, Ivo Boškoski, and Pietro Familiari*
- 41 **Biliary Surgery Adverse Events Including Liver Transplantation** 389  
*Claudio Navarrete, Francisca Navarrete, Jaqueline M. Gobelet, Eduardo Valdivieso, and Miguel Muñoz-Navas*
- 42 **ERCP for Acute and Chronic Adverse Events of Pancreatic Surgery and Pancreatic Trauma** 402  
*Prabhleen Chahal and Todd H. Baron*
- 43 **Choledocholithiasis** 410  
*James Y.W. Lau, Yuk Tong Lee, and Joseph Sung*
- 44 **Pancreaticobiliary Pain and Suspected Sphincter of Oddi Dysfunction** 419  
*Paul R. Tarnasky and Robert H. Hawes*
- 45 **Sclerosing Cholangitis** 430  
*Jawad Ahmad and Adam Slivka*
- 46 **Tropical Parasitic Infestations** 437  
*Nageshwar Reddy, G. Venkat Rao, and Rupa Banerjee*
- 47 **Recurrent Pyogenic Cholangitis** 442  
*Dong Wan Seo and Khean-Lee Goh*
- 48 **Cystic Lesions of the Pancreas** 453  
*Won Jae Yoon and William R. Brugge*
- 49 **Unexplained Acute Pancreatitis** 460  
*Damien Tan and Stuart Sherman*
- 50 **Biliary Intervention in Acute Gallstone Pancreatitis** 474  
*Ayaz Matin and David L. Carr-Locke*
- 51 **Pancreatic Interventions in Acute Pancreatitis: Ascites, Fistulae, Leaks, and Other Disruptions** 482  
*Andrew Ross and Richard A. Kozarek*
- 52 **Chronic Pancreatitis: Stones and Strictures** 492  
*Jacques Devière*
- 53 **Endoscopic Drainage of Pancreatic Pseudocysts, Abscesses, and Walled-Off (Organized) Necrosis** 500  
*Todd H. Baron*

# Section I

## General Topics



# Four Decades: The History of ERCP

Lee McHenry and Glen Lehman

Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) has been a remarkable technological advance over the past 40 years in the field of gastrointestinal endoscopy and has redefined the medical and surgical approach to patients with pancreatic and biliary tract diseases. Since its inception in 1968, the medical community has witnessed significant achievements by the pioneers in endoscopy who incrementally advanced ERCP techniques from their infancy to maturity. The “infancy” of ERCP focused on diagnosis, the “adolescence” on therapy of common biliary tract diseases such as bile duct stones and malignant strictures, the “early adulthood” on pancreatic endotherapy and prevention of post-ERCP pancreatitis (PEP), and the current “mature adulthood” on continued refinement of techniques to make ERCP safer and more effective. Numerous pioneers in the field of ERCP have played significant roles in developing new techniques and novel instrumentation, spearheaded innovative techniques to reduce adverse events, and trained generations of endoscopists to perform safe ERCP. We have now reached a 40-year milestone in ERCP and can look back and recall an exciting and enjoyable journey, replete with enthusiastic innovation that has benefited so many patients (**Boxes 1.1 and 1.2**). It would require an entire textbook to incorporate all of the important contributions made by the many ERCP clinicians over the past 40 years. We extend an apology in advance to any individuals omitted from this brief summary of the history of ERCP.

## ERCP in Its Infancy

In the 1920s bile duct imaging was performed by surgeons Evarts Graham and Warren Cole with the use of intravenously administered iodinated phenolphthalein that was selectively excreted into the bile and recorded radiographically. Oral cholecystography and percutaneous skinny “Chiba” needle cholangiography were subsequently developed to improve the visualization of the bile duct.<sup>1,2</sup> What defied the clinician was a nonoperative technique to image the pancreatic duct. In 1965 two innovative radiologists, Rabinov and Simon,<sup>3</sup> fashioned a bendable catheter that was inserted through a peroral basket catheter. The medial duodenal wall was “blindly scratched” with the tip of the catheter and resulted in the first nonoperative pancreatogram (**Fig. 1.1**). In eight attempts, Rabinov and Simon obtained an interpretable pancreatogram in two patients. The gastrointestinal endoscopist now entered

the arena. William McCune and his surgical colleagues at George Washington University (Washington, D.C.) are credited with the first report of endoscopic cannulation of the ampulla of Vater in living patients.<sup>4</sup> McCune used an Eder fiberoptic duodenoscope (Eder Instrument Company, Chicago), which had both a forward and side lens and an endotracheal-type cuff placed on the scope just beyond the lens. The balloon was inflated and deflated to enable adequate focal length for mucosal visualization. McCune taped a small-diameter plastic tube that served as a tract to the endoscope and could house a bendable cannula. The cannula was advanced to the major duodenal papilla under endoscopic guidance. McCune’s cannulation success rate was only 25% (50% duodenal intubation and 50% pancreatic duct opacification) in his report of 50 patients. In his discussion of the first reported series, McCune stated: “Anyone who looks through one of these instruments has to have 2 personality characteristics. First, he has to be honest, and secondly, you have to have an undying, blind, day and night, uncompromising persistence.” ERCP was born, and slowly grew to an established technique due to the honesty and persistence of endoscopic pioneers.

In March 1969 in Japan, Oi (**Fig. 1.2**) and colleagues—in close collaboration with Machida (Machida Endoscope, Ltd., Tokyo) and Olympus corporations (Olympus Optical Co., Ltd., Tokyo)—developed a side-viewing fiberoptic duodenoscope with a channel and an elevator lever to enable manipulation of the cannula. Initially, Oi was able to visualize the ampulla in about half of 105 cases.<sup>5</sup> In a subsequent report, Oi was able to cannulate the papilla in 41 of 53 patients (71%) without significant morbidity.<sup>6</sup> By 1972 Jack Vennes and Steven Silvis of the University of Minnesota had published the experience in their first 80 attempts at cannulation of the bile and pancreatic ducts, paving the way for acceptability in the American endoscopic wilderness (**Table 1.1**).<sup>7,8</sup> Over the next 5 years, pioneers with the names Safrany, Cotton, Geenen, Siegel, Classen, and Demling and the Japanese groups (**Fig. 1.3**) embraced this new technique and reported on the successes (cannulation rates >90%) (**Fig. 1.4**), the shortcomings (PEP), the nuances (variety of cannula types, cannulation angles), and the practical application of ERCP in our understanding of biliary and pancreatic disorders.<sup>9–15</sup> But what could we as endoscopists do with this newfound knowledge?

Simultaneously in 1973, in separate regions on the globe, ERCP investigators conceived the concept of a therapeutic