
Rob & Smith's

Operative Surgery

Alimentary Tract and Abdominal Wall

**1 General Principles • Oesophagus • Stomach •
Duodenum • Small Intestine • Abdominal Wall • Hernia**

Fourth Edition

Edited by

Hugh Dudley

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Preface

Gastrointestinal surgery is historically the core subject of modern general surgery but this is rapidly changing as the technical demands made in other fields previously encompassed by general surgeons convert these into major subdivisions of their own. Nevertheless it is still probably true to say that the majority of curative soft tissue surgery throughout the world remains centred on the abdomen and particularly the gastrointestinal tract and the abdominal wall. In addition abdominal surgery is an ideal training ground for other fields, both in decision making and in technique. To have served an apprenticeship in the abdomen is to have a good start for virtually any other speciality.

Though gastrointestinal surgery is an old established discipline it continues to move forward – often somewhat to the surprise of those, who having trained in the field, move on to what appear to be more glamorous specialities. Thus this edition contains a considerable number of new procedures

and techniques, amongst them extended descriptions of stapling and of the surgery of obesity. We have now also included the abdominal wall and hernia in these volumes though we have drawn the upper and lower lines at the thoracic oesophagus and the ileocaecal valve.

As before, our emphasis – though not an exclusive one – is on tried and proven procedures. Some of these are simple, some advanced. The latter are included because they show master surgeons at work which can in turn illumine simpler procedures for others. There is further a need for all those practising gastrointestinal surgery to have the opportunity to see the way to do operations which though advanced are perhaps destined to be routine tomorrow. Here then is 'How to do it in the gastrointestinal tract by those who know how to do it' (with the possible exception of course of the Editor's own contributions!)

Hugh Dudley

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