

A HANDBOOK OF OPERATIVE SURGERY

CARDIOVASCULAR SURGERY



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The HANDBOOKS *of* OPERATIVE SURGERY

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SECOND EDITION

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Preface

THIS HANDBOOK is designed to be informative of the scope of cardiovascular surgery. It deals almost exclusively with the technical aspects of the operative procedures which are used to restore circulatory function in disease states and to correct congenital anomalies. Despite its technical nature, it is primarily intended for physicians with general interest in medicine and for general surgeons who will find here an account of the treatment possibilities in a variety of conditions. Without such graphic portrayal as that permitted by an operative handbook, some of these procedures may remain obscure to those not directly engaged in the field, with the result that patients may be denied useful treatment. It is not likely that cardiovascular surgeons will benefit from this volume beyond observing the individual technical maneuvers employed by the authors in carrying out the procedures described.

Some liberties have been taken in exceeding the limitations of a technical handbook by discussing examination and clinical diagnosis. However, the actual indications for the operations and reviews of known results of the individual procedures are not considered. It is evident that a meaningful presentation of information upon which a mature judgment in the application of surgery of this type could be developed would require many volumes. Selection of patients is generally left to those whose specialized experience in the field has qualified them for the task. In many instances the final evaluation of results of a procedure is far from being attained. The inclusion of a procedure in this handbook is, therefore, not intended to indicate that it is firmly established as an accepted operation which will surely stand the test of the future.

The efforts of a great number of surgeons are represented in the surgical procedures included here. It is perhaps fortunate that bibliographic references to the reports which contributed to the development of the operations were not planned. Although many definite breakthroughs characterize the advance in the field, much of the progress has evolved through parallel work at several centers. We acknowledge the lack of identification of those who had most to do with the development of these operations, a defect overcome only in the few instances in which a surgeon's name has been applied by common usage.

We are grateful to our medical illustrators, Miss Diane L. Nelson, Mr. Russell Carlson and his assistant, Mrs. Ruth Best, and to Miss Gerry Stearns and our secretaries. We acknowledge with thanks the patient work of Mr. James L. Holman in organizing the process of completion of the volume.

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Table of Contents

Chapter	Page
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS	15
 <i>Section I. THE ARTERIAL SYSTEM</i>	
1. INTRODUCTION	20
2. CLINICAL EVALUATION	22
Vascular Examination	22
Bruits	24
Sympathetic Block	26
Arteriography	30
3. ARTERIAL INJURY	42
Types of Injury.	46
Reconstruction of Contused Artery.	48
Management of Wound with Vascular Injury	52
Direct Repair of Artery	54
Arterial Repair with Vein Graft	56
Pulsating Hematoma and Arteriovenous Fistula	58
4. ACUTE ARTERIAL OCCLUSION	68
Sources of Peripheral Arterial Emboli	70
Embolectomy	72
5. CHRONIC ARTERIAL OCCLUSION	80
Thromboendarterectomy of the Aortic Bifurcation	82
Aortic Bifurcation By-pass Graft	84
By-pass Grafts from the Aorta to the Common Femoral Level	92
Femoropopliteal By-pass Graft	94

[12] **Table of Contents**

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Page</i>
Femoral Thromboendarterectomy with Vein Patch	98
6. SURGICAL ASPECTS OF CORONARY ARTERY DISEASE	100
Internal Mammary Implant	102
Coronary Reconstruction	104
Left Ventricular Aneurysm	108
7. BRACHIOCEPHALIC ARTERIAL DISEASE	110
Carotid Arteriography	112
Carotid Endarterectomy	114
Kinked Internal Carotid Artery	120
Carotid-Subclavian By-pass	122
Aorto-Axillary Artery By-pass	126
Reconstruction of Vertebral Artery Origin	128
Neurovascular Compression at the Shoulder	130
Resection of a Cervical Rib	132
Costoclavicular Syndrome	134
8. HYPERTENSION DUE TO RENOVASCULAR DISEASE	136
Renal Arteriography	138
Renal Arterioplasty	140
Renal Artery Transplantation	140
Renal Artery Reconstruction with Grafts	142
Unusual Renal Artery Lesions	144
9. ARTERIAL ANEURYSM	146
Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm	148
Popliteal Aneurysm	156
Thoracic Aortic Aneurysm	158
Descending Aortic Aneurysm	162
Ascending Aortic Aneurysm	166
Aortic Root Aneurysm	168
Thoracoabdominal Aortic Aneurysm	170
Aortic Arch Aneurysm	174
Dissecting Aneurysm	182
Section II. THE VENOUS SYSTEM	
10 GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS	190
1. VARICOSE VEINS	194
Ligation and Stripping of the Long Saphenous Vein	194

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Page</i>
Anatomy of the Long Saphenous Vein	198
Ligation and Stripping of the Short Saphenous Vein	200
12. STASIS DISEASE	202
Stasis Ulcer	202
Ligation of Perforating Veins	208
Thromboembolism	210
Pulmonary Embolectomy	212
13. PORTAL HYPERTENSION	214
Portal Hypertension in Children	216
Portal Hypertension in Adults	217
Treatment of Portal Hypertension	218
Ascites	218
Portal Decompression	220
Portacaval Shunt	222
Other Types of Shunts	226

Section III. THE HEART and GREAT VESSELS

14. INTRODUCTION	230
15. GENERAL TECHNIQUES IN SURGERY	233
Thoracotomy Incisions Used in Heart Surgery	234
Isolation of Great Vessels for Inflow Occlusion and	
Cardiopulmonary By-pass	238
Cannulations for Cardiopulmonary By-pass	242
Coronary Artery Perfusion	244
16. SURGERY OF THE GREAT VESSELS	246
Patent Ductus Arteriosus	248
Coarctation of the Aorta	256
Aorticopulmonary Window	266
Vascular Ring Compression	268
17. PERICARDIECTOMY	272
Pericardiectomy for Constrictive Pericarditis	274
18. MITRAL VALVE SURGERY	278
Mitral Commissurotomy	278
Reconstruction of Mitral Valve	284
Prosthetic Replacement of Mitral Valve	286

[14] **Table of Contents**

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Page</i>
19. AORTIC VALVE REPLACEMENT	292
20. MULTIPLE VALVE OPERATIONS	296
21. INTERATRIAL SEPTAL DEFECTS	300
Types of Defects	300
Closure of Ostium Secundum Defect	302
Closure of Sinus Venosus Defect	304
Closure of Ostium Primum	306
22. INTERVENTRICULAR SEPTAL DEFECTS	308
Types of Defects	308
Closure of Ventricular Septal Defect	310
23. OTHER OPERATIONS FOR CONGENITAL HEART DEFECTS	312
Palliative Surgery	312
Pulmonary Artery Banding	314
Subclavian-Pulmonary Artery Shunt (The Blalock Operation)	316
Creation of Atrial Septal Defect (Blalock-Hanlon Operation)	318
Ascending Aortic-Pulmonary Artery Shunt	320
Transposition of the Great Vessels	322
Congenital Aortic Stenosis	326
Idiopathic Hypertrophic Subaortic Stenosis	328
Descending Aortic-Pulmonary Artery Shunt (Potts Operation)	332
Valvulotomy for Valvular Pulmonic Stenosis	334
Total Correction of Tetralogy of Fallot	340
24. HEART TRANSPLANTATION	342
Technique of Human Heart Transplantation	342
25. CARDIAC RESUSCITATION	346
Closed-Chest Cardiac Compression	350
External Defibrillation	350
INDEX	353

List of Illustrations

	<i>Plate</i>
Vascular Examination	1
Bruits	2
Lumbar Sympathetic Block	3
Stellate Ganglion Block	4
Femoral Arteriography	5
Translumbar Aortography	6
Retrograde Thoracic Aortography	7
Transvenous Thoracic Aortography	8
Subclavian and Vertebral Arteriography	9
Types of Arterial Injury	10
Reconstruction of Contused Artery	11
Management of a Wound with Vascular Injury	12
Direct Repair of Artery	13
Arterial Repair with Vein Graft	14
Pulsating Hematoma; Arteriovenous Fistula	15
Surgical Treatment of Pulsating Hematoma	16
Repair of Arteriovenous Fistula by Simple Resection and Transvenous Suture	17
Resection of Arteriovenous Fistula with Direct Anastomotic Repair of Artery	18
Resection of Arteriovenous Fistula with Graft Repair	19
Sources of Peripheral Arterial Emboli	20
Incisions for Embolectomy	21
Femoral Artery Embolectomy	22

[16] **List of Illustrations**

	<i>Plate</i>
Aortic Bifurcation Embolectomy	23
Brachial Artery Embolectomy	24
Thromboendarterectomy of the Aortic Bifurcation	25
Aortic Bifurcation By-pass Graft	26
Aortic Bifurcation By-pass Graft:	
End-to-End Proximal Anastomosis	27
By-pass Grafts from Aorta to the Common Femoral Level	28
Femoropopliteal By-pass Graft	29
Femoral Artery Dacron Graft	30
Femoral Thromboendarterectomy with Vein Patch	31
Internal Mammary Implant	32
Aorto-Coronary By-pass	33
Right Coronary Artery Endarterectomy	34
Left Ventricular Aneurysmectomy	35
Carotid Arteriography	36
Carotid Endarterectomy	37
Kinked Internal Carotid Artery	38
Carotid-Subclavian By-pass	39
Aorto-Axillary Artery By-pass	40
Reconstruction of Vertebral Artery Origin	41
Resection of a Cervical Rib	42
Costoclavicular Compression Syndrome: Resection of First Rib	43
Renal Arteriography	44
Renal Arterioplasty; Renal Artery Transplantation	45
Renal Artery Reconstruction with Grafts	46
Unusual Renal Artery Lesions	47
Sites of Rupture of Abdominal Aneurysms	48
Resection and Graft in Abdominal Aneurysm	49
Resection and Graft in Popliteal Aneurysm	50
Lateral Aneurysmectomy of Saccular Aneurysm	51
Saccular Aneurysm Resection with Temporary By-pass	52
Resection with Temporary By-pass of Descending	
Thoracic Aortic Aneurysm	53
Resection of Descending Thoracic Aortic Aneurysm	54