INTERNATIONAL TRENDS IN GENERAL THORACIC SURGERY



V(O) E E E

Esophageal Cancer

Norman C. Delarue Earle W. Wilkins, Jr. John Wong

INTERNATIONAL TRENDS IN GENERAL THORACIC VOLUME SURGERY 4



ESOPHAGEAL CANCER FOR RESALF

Edited by

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Transabdominal esophagogastrectomy for the poor-risk patient Discussion: Chapters 40 to 43

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Discussion: Cytologic screening for carcinoma and dysplasia of the esophagus in the People's Republic of China

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Prophylactic operative techniques: 380 esophageal anastomoses using the stapler

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Discussion: Chapters 40 to 43

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Adenocarcinoma in the columnar epithelial-lined lower esophagus of Barrett

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The relative merits of definitive radiotherapy and palliative resection

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The current role of partial esophagectomy in the surgical treatment of middle- and lower-third esophageal carcinoma

Use of tubular isoperistaltic gastroplasty after total or partial esophagectomy

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The malignant tracheoesophageal or bronchoesophageal fistula

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Perioperative management of carcinoma of the esophagus: the reduction of operative mortality

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Epidemiologic trends and etiologic factors of esophageal carcinoma

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Discussion: Surgical management of adenocarcinoma at the gastroesophageal junction Surgical palliation: esophageal resection—a surgeon's opinion

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Service de Chirurgie Digestive, Hôpital Beaujon, Paris, France Immediate complications following esophageal surgery

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Special techniques in the endoscopic diagnosis of esophageal carcinoma

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Prophylactic operative techniques: 380 esophageal anastomoses using the stapler Prophylactic operative techniques: thoracic esophageal squamous cell cancer surgery, with special reference to lymph node removal

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Discussion: Brachytherapy for inoperable cancer of the esophagus and cardia

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Combined radical resection of adjacent organs involved by esophageal carcinoma

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Discussion: Perioperative management of carcinoma: the reduction of operative mortality Discussion: Surgical management of adenocarcinoma at the gastroesophageal junction Surgical involvement in cooperative study protocols: experience of the OESO international group Immediate complications following esophageal surgery Discussion: Chapters 37 to 39

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Definitive radiotherapy Combined preoperative irradiation and surgery for esophageal carcinoma

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Natural progression of esophageal carcinoma Recognition and treatment of the early lesion Combined preoperative irradiation and surgery for esophageal carcinoma

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Department of Surgery II, Faculty of Medicine, Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan Combined preoperative irradiation and surgery for esophageal carcinoma Hyperthermia treatment effective for patients with carcinoma of the esophagus

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Combined radical resection of adjacent organs involved by esophageal carcinoma

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Preoperative chemotherapy in epidermoid carcinoma of the esophagus

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Discussion: Cytologic screening for carcinoma and dysplasia of the esophagus in the People's Republic of China

Submucography in the diagnosis of esophageal tumors

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Surgical palliation in obstructing lesions—intrathoracic bypass procedures

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Discussion: Pulmonary complications

Surgical palliation in obstructing lesions—intrathoracic bypass procedures

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Elective surgical techniques for cervical and postcricoid lesions

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TOSHIHIDE MARUYAMA, M.D.

Department of Gastroenterology, School of Medicine, Juntendo University, Tokyo, Japan Radiologic patterns of early esophageal carcinoma

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Hyperthermia treatment effective for patients with carcinoma of the esophagus

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Esophageal carcinoma as a complication of achalasia: the screening controversy

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Adenocarcinoma in the columnar epithelial-lined lower esophagus of Barrett

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Palliation of esophageal malignancy with photodynamic therapy

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Laser therapy as palliation for advanced, nonresectable carcinoma

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Discussion: Recognition and treatment of the early lesion

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The current role of partial esophagectomy in the surgical treatment of middle- and lower-third esophageal carcinoma

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Discussion: Combined radical resection of adjacent organs involved by esophageal carcinoma

RYOICHI MOTOKI, M.D.

Professor of Surgery, First Department of Surgery, Fukushima Medical College, Fukushima, Japan Critical postoperative care using the Swan-Ganz catheter

CLIFTON F. MOUNTAIN, M.D.

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Rationale in staging of cancer of the esophagus

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Discussion: Chapters 14 to 18

ERIC M. NANSON, O.B.E., M.B., Ch.B.(N.Z.), F.R.C.S.(Eng.), F.R.C.S.(C), F.A.C.S., F.R.A.C.S.

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Radiologic patterns of early esophageal carcinoma

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Discussion: Perioperative management of carcinoma of the esophagus: the reduction of operative mortality

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Postoperative long-term immunochemotherapy

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Transhiatal esophagectomy without thoracotomy for esophageal carcinoma

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Brachytherapy for inoperable cancer of the esophagus and cardia

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Use of tubular isoperistaltic gastroplasty after total or partial esophagectomy

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Excisional, radiational, and chemotherapeutic methods and results

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Discussion: Synchronous combined abdominothoracocervical esophagectomy: the team approach

Discussion: Transabdominal esophagogastrectomy for the poor-risk patient

Discussion: Median sternotomy in radical surgery for esophageal carcinoma involving cervical and upper thoracic segments

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Discussion: Pulmonary complications

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Discussion: En bloc resection for esophageal carcinoma

Discussion: Transhiatal esophagectomy without thoracotomy for esophageal carcinoma

STÉPHANE PLACE, M.D.

Chief Clinical Assistant, Department of Surgery, Hôpital Beaujon, Chichy, France Prophylactic operative techniques: 380 esophageal anastomoses using the stapler

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Brachytherapy for inoperable cancer of the esophagus and cardia

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Perioperative management of carcinoma of the esophagus: the reduction of operative mortality

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Cytologic screening for carcinoma and dysplasia of the esophagus in the People's Republic of China

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En bloc resection for esophageal carcinoma

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Concurrent chemotherapy and radiation therapy for squamous cell cancer of the esophagus Discussion: Chapters 46 to 48

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Discussion: The relative merits of definitive radiotherapy and palliative resection

KEIZO SUGIMACHI, M.B., F.A.C.S.

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Submucography in the diagnosis of esophageal tumors

ENDRE SZIRÁNYI, M.D.

Assistant Professor, First Department of Surgery, Postgraduate Medical School, Budapest, Hungary Anastomosis using wire sutures in one layer

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Pathologic changes affecting survival in esophageal cancer

Discussion: Endoesophageal intubation for palliation in obstructing esophageal carcinoma

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Discussion: Chapters 21 to 23

Perspective

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Palliation of esophageal malignancy with photodynamic therapy

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Discussion: Complications of the anastomosis: leak and stricture

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Esophagoscopy and bronchoscopy Squamous cell carcinoma of the esophagus

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Radiologic patterns of early esophageal carcinoma

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Combined preoperative irradiation and surgery for esophageal carcinoma

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Definitive radiotherapy

Combined preoperative irradiation and surgery for esophageal carcinoma

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Surgical management of adenocarcinoma at the gastroesophageal junction Combined preoperative irradiation and surgery for esophageal carcinoma

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Combined preoperative irradiation and surgery for esophageal carcinoma

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Combined preoperative irradiation and surgery for esophageal carcinoma

Foreword

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 expansion 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 multitopic 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 the requested information from a broad base of clinical experience. An international advisory board has also been constituted to ensure an effective international approach to the process of topic selection