

PREFACE

In general, primary care providers, family practitioners, and gastroenterologists have a limited knowledge of abdominal surgical operations, the medical aspects of these surgical procedures, and their immediate and late complications. In addition, these patients traditionally are not followed up by the surgeons, and thus the internist must become familiar with postsurgical problems in order to provide appropriate long-term care. A clear understanding of the concepts that underlie the surgery is crucial for proper management of these patients.

In addition, within the last 10 years, laparoscopic surgery has become increasingly commonplace, with new laparoscopic procedures being developed at a rapid pace. There are vast differences between traditional and laparoscopic surgery, not only in the way these procedures are performed, but also in their outcomes and complications. Many internists, as well as surgeons, have very limited understanding of these procedures. Therefore, the need exists for a book that can provide useful clinical information in an easy to access format, covering a variety of abdominal surgical procedures.

Almost all surgical books provide great detail about the technical aspects of surgical procedures and their surgical complications. However, the physician who needs to manage the patient who has undergone gastrointestinal (GI) surgery, currently must go through surgical texts to find the disease, and then the type of surgery the patient has undergone, wading through pages of details about the surgical procedure, without dealing with the issues relevant to the medical management of the patient. Thus, it is currently difficult for the nonsurgically trained physician to extract the relevant medical information. *An Internist's Illustrated Guide to Gastrointestinal Surgery* is a comprehensive textbook describing all of the surgical and laparoscopic procedures for the GI tract in a simple way, with artistic illustrations to educate the physician about surgery of the GI tract, and to provide not only clear descriptions of the changes in the anatomy and physiology, but also advice on medical management of the postsurgical patient.

An Internist's Illustrated Guide to Gastrointestinal Surgery describes in detail the indications, contraindications, anatomical alterations, and physiological alterations that result from various GI operations and procedures. Comparison between alternative operations, complications, medical management issues, and costs of these surgical procedures and operations are discussed. Clear, detailed, artist-rendered illustrations of the anatomy before and after surgery are included and, where appropriate, radiological images before and after surgery.

This is a unique textbook, written primarily for primary care physicians, general internists, and gastroenterologists to educate them about those aspects of GI surgery—including laparoscopic surgery—that are pertinent to an internist. It should also be a suitable textbook for medical students, residents, nurses and nurse practitioners, nutritionists, dietitians, and various subspecialists, who often take care of postsurgical patients.

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