
Preface

At every crossing on the road that leads to the future, each progressive spirit is opposed by a thousand appointed to guard the past.

Maurice Maeterlinck

As a medical student, I was confounded by the skull base and its insurmountable portrayal as “no man’s land.” During my 9 years of postgraduate training, I had the inspiring privilege of learning from master surgeons from different subspecialties around the world in my quest to find solutions, studying general surgery, plastic and reconstructive surgery, neurosurgery, otolaryngology, and vascular surgery in cities such as Chicago, Nashville, New York, Zurich, Marseilles, and Piacenza. It is this expansive, hybrid training, along with rigorous fellowships in craniofacial surgery and skull base microsurgery, that has allowed me to exclusively devote the last 15 years of my practice to demystifying the art and science of skull base surgery.

To date, more than 3,000 brain and skull base tumors, along with various vascular problems, have been treated using advanced, fully endoscopic, minimally invasive techniques that were first introduced in 1996. These techniques have been continually refined and progressively evolving at the Skull Base Institute since that time.

This book is the product of my journey and is dedicated to future generations of skull base surgeons whose pursuit of medical excellence will inevitably advance this challenging field down the road that leads to the future. In doing so, they shall continue our mission as physicians to fulfill our duty and destiny in alleviating suffering and proudly honoring the gift of healing.

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