

Preface

Laparoscopic surgery has been instrumental in the advancement of minimally invasive surgery in the adult patient with urologic conditions. Robotic-assisted laparoscopic surgery has allowed the urologic surgeon to perform more advanced laparoscopy operations in the adult patient. Radical prostatectomy is a perfect example. Although laparoscopy has been utilized for several decades in children for the diagnosis and treatment of undescended testicles and ambiguous genitalia, robotic technology has been slower to advance into the pediatric arena compared to the adult.

However, the use of robotic technology in recent years for the pediatric urologic population has gained momentum. The intuitive nature of robotic-assisted laparoscopy compared to conventional laparoscopy allows for the relative novice to perform fine surgical techniques, such as suturing, with more ease and dexterity. One robotic-assisted operation that is more commonly being performed in the pediatric population is pyeloplasty with more advanced procedures such as bladder augmentation and ureteral reimplantation also being performed by the more experienced surgeon.

Pediatric Robotic Urology, a concise and comprehensive reference on robotic-assisted laparoscopy, is written specifically for surgeons and other health care providers caring for the pediatric urologic patient. Well-respected surgeons have been carefully chosen to author the chapters due to their expertise in laparoscopic urologic surgery. The basics of laparoscopy and robotic-assisted laparoscopy will be discussed along with specific surgical techniques which will be accompanied with illustrations and intraoperative photographs. The chapters are arranged into two sections to allow for easier access to the information: Introductory topics and surgical techniques. Upon completion of this text, it is my sincere hope that the reader will learn the basic and advanced robotic-assisted surgical techniques to assist them in the care of children.

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