

Preface

Coloproctology has been a burgeoning field for surgeons over the last two decades. It now represents an eclectic array of subspecialties for those specifically interested in colorectal genetics, neoplasia, inflammatory bowel disease, and functional bowel disorders. This textbook aims to bring together numerous international experts to incorporate the current management and investigation of these important areas for colorectal practitioners and trainees. In this book, the reader will find up-to-date approaches toward a myriad of challenging areas including genetic testing in hereditary and familial cancer, the role and outcome of multivisceral resections in rectal cancer, and the recommended management of presacral tumors and recurrent rectal carcinoma. These discussions are allied with an update on chemotherapy and immunotherapy trials in colorectal cancer, new approaches to radiotherapeutic delivery, and important quality of life issues that affect overall postoperative outcomes. Additional chapters include the specialized areas of inflammatory bowel disease management, including revisional pouch surgery and perianal Crohn's disease.

Functional bowel disorders represent a particularly difficult group of referred patients for which there has been a radical change in management through the introduction of a sometimes confusing array of new diagnostic and therapeutic modalities. Patients who may benefit from this spectrum of evaluation and management include those individuals with fecal incontinence, poor postoperative functional outcomes, and evacuatory difficulty. Two perhaps more commonly seen but nonetheless challenging areas included in the text are updates on complex anal fistula management, including the very difficult to treat rectovaginal and rectourethral fistulas, and the current status of the diagnosis and treatment of complicated sigmoid diverticular disease. It is hoped that this textbook will be a practical guide for patient assessment and will provide both the practising surgeon and the surgical trainee with formulaic and rational pathways for specialized patient care.

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