
Preface

Internationally, trauma is at the top, if not the very top of the list of causes of death under the age of 50 years. At the same time, enormous developments continue to be made in diagnostics and treatment, while the field of trauma/acute/emergency surgery undergoes exciting and dramatic expansion and restructuring, with the establishment of new surgical specialties. At this crucial juncture, it is desirable to work in the direction of bringing evidence-based order and uniformity into the trauma care system.

This first volume in the “Trauma Surgery” series deals with cranial, thoracic, abdominal, and vascular trauma. These injuries frequently fulfill the criteria for “lethal trauma” and are often camouflaged by more obvious associated lesions. Even though the emergency and trauma surgeon may need the support of organ-focused specialists for the definitive surgical care of many of the addressed injuries, he or she must be able to detect the full trauma pattern, set priorities, and perform at least the most urgent damage-control procedures. The organ-focused specialist, moreover, may have had only sporadic exposure to critical organ lesions and the respective handbooks may provide only marginal coverage of trauma issues.

Target groups of this volume are general and trauma surgeons looking for an up-to-date outline of surgical trauma care or preparing for the EBSQ-Trauma exam. The contributing authors are all highly experienced trauma surgeons or specialists in their fields with strong trauma commitment. They are drawn in part from the professional environment of the editors, and in part from the distinguished faculty of AAST and ESTES congresses.

Progress is made when established techniques are challenged and know-how is transmitted to critical colleagues. In this sense, the editors hope that surgeons, whether young or established, will scrutinize the given recommendations, apply them, and pass on their suggestions for improving them.

We express our sincere gratitude to all the authors who contributed to this volume for sharing their extraordinary experience in the field of trauma.

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