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## Preface

*Paediatric Airway Surgery* is the fruit of experience gained over many years to improve the surgical outcome for children suffering from a variety of compromised airways. It focuses on the technical aspects of diagnosis and treatment to provide the reader not only with well-established treatment modalities, but also with new concepts of paediatric airway management. Some ideas may not be shared by all, but should stimulate new thoughts in search of better solutions in the future.

This endeavour was induced by numerous foreign colleagues who visited the Lausanne ENT Department to study endoscopic and open surgical airway techniques, particularly cricotracheal resection and its variants.

This book is also intended to provide insights into controversial issues pertaining to the most difficult airway reconstructions. The author does not claim to present definite solutions to the challenging problem of the compromised paediatric airway. Nonetheless his modest goal, based on the experience of pioneers, is to add a stone to the pyramid of knowledge in this field of research. With inputs from different horizons, it is hoped that this will one day lead to the full rehabilitation of most tracheostomized children suffering from various forms of laryngotracheal stenosis.

Contributors to this book have all been directly implicated in the management of these children and they write from their vast experience.

The lead author wishes for this book to reflect the necessary commitment that a paediatric airway surgeon must possess to acquire the stepwise knowledge of subtle diagnostic and therapeutic skills for providing the best possible care for his or her young patients.

January 2010  
Lausanne, Switzerland

Philippe Monnier

Pediatric Airway Surgery

Management of Laryngotracheal Stenosis in Infants  
and Children

Monnier, P. (Ed.)

2011, XVII, 371 p., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-642-13534-7