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## Preface

The last twenty-five years has seen a dramatic awakening of interest and enthusiasm for the management of acute and chronic venous disorders. Many advances in medicine, including the liberal use of duplex ultrasound, have enabled physicians to better understand the anatomy, pathogenesis, and natural history of many common venous disorders. Advances in hematology, pharmacology, and interventional techniques have significantly impacted our understanding of how to prevent and treat thromboembolic disease. Application and validation of new minimally invasive treatment strategies to eliminate truncal reflux has revolutionized the care of chronic venous disorders moving it out of the operating room and into less intimidating outpatient offices. These and other contributions have allowed venous care to become more targeted to the type and extent of venous disease optimizing clinical outcomes and minimizing morbidity, recovery, and side effects.

This text evolved as a response to numerous requests to present a simplified approach to the diagnosis and management of most of the common aspects of both cosmetic and medical venous disorders. The authors, representing experienced phlebologists from several different primary disciplines, have attempted to present simplistic paradigm-oriented approaches on how to thoughtfully evaluate and manage common vein issues with contemporary solutions. Several areas of phlebology were not addressed in this text. The management of vascular malformations is beyond the scope of this text and was not covered in detail. Although indications for the appropriate use of IVC filters are discussed, the details about the specific devices and their placement and removal are also beyond the scope of this text. Deep venous obstruction from prior thrombosis, venous compression by arteries such as the compression of the left common iliac vein by the right common iliac artery, and pelvic venous insufficiency can now be managed with minimally invasive image guided treatments; the technical aspects of such treatments are complex and not discussed in detail in this handbook.

It is hoped that the present volume will increase the therapeutic skill of the practicing phlebologist and thus increase the quality of care for patients faced with problems related to venous disorders.

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