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## Preface

Laparoscopy in children is special.

Children come in all sizes. The small size of children is an important technical aspect. Also, there are characteristic paediatric indications for laparoscopy. The most typical ones are described in this booklet.

This booklet is written for colleagues – adult and paediatric surgeons alike – wishing to profit from the experience of authors who have performed numerous laparoscopies in children of all sizes, many of them newborns.

The authors are aware of the fact that current medical progress may appear ridiculous in 100 years. Laparoscopy in children began 20 years ago, and techniques are constantly changing. Laparoscopic surgery may historically be the transition from conventional “open” surgery to a surgery without scars. Reader should thus see our comments as preliminary ones. Any suggestions for improvements would be very welcome.

We also have omitted the “troubleshooting” section of the first edition. That section was needed at the beginning of laparoscopic surgery, but not now anymore.

Humans have a natural inhibition about inserting sharp instruments into a small child’s abdomen. However, once they have cut through the abdominal wall and can find their bearings, surgeons usually feel comfortable.

This booklet contains no statistics and no comparisons with open approaches. Instead, it concentrates on the practical steps involved.

Applying the techniques described, the reader may also master procedures not mentioned here. The principles are covered in this booklet.

Do not use 10-mm instruments in children. Complete sets of instruments of 3 and 2 mm in diameter or even less are available. They enable us to operate virtually without scars and can also be used in adults.

This 2nd edition covers more indications. They were still experimental at the time of the 1st edition but have entered general practice in the meantime. It also displays a different drawing style and reflects the fact that we have changed in the meantime to optics of 2-mm diameters (in the 1st edition we were using 5-mm optics).

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