
Preface

As the population ages and desires to remain active, we have seen a rise in the number of patients who present with chronic, massive rotator cuff tears. Perhaps a decade ago, we had very limited options for these patients and treatment decisions were made through more art than science. However, with the advent of the reverse shoulder arthroplasty, and a better understanding of the role of tendon transfers and arthroscopy, we now have sound options to offer these patients.

The goal of this book is to present a comprehensive approach to the patient with a massive rotator cuff tear. An overarching theme of the book is that patients with similar imaging findings may present with very different clinical presentations. Once the diagnosis of a massive rotator cuff tear is made, the final treatment recommendation should come down to the patient's main complaints and their expectations. We feel this book serves a unique, but quickly expanding, niche to guide the clinician through this challenging problem.

The book follows a logical path through the issues that surround massive rotator cuff tears. It begins with chapters on the pathoanatomy and work-up. It then proceeds through the indications for, and literature behind, various treatment options. Finally, it ends with a treatment algorithm that can serve as an overall guide for clinicians. In each amenable chapter, we have included a "pearls and pitfalls" table that clearly delineates the key points that each author thinks are most important for their given topic. We hope the format of the book allows the reader to refer to it as a quick reference guide, but one that also offers an in-depth analysis of each topic through the text.

This book would not be possible without the contributions of the authors. They are all leaders in their fields, and each has extensive experience in treating patients with massive tears. They have generously donated their professional and personal time to contribute to this book. We are very grateful for their efforts, and we are honored to call them colleagues and friends.

The most instrumental person in the conception and production of this book is our Developmental Editor at Springer, Michael Griffin. He single-handedly pushed this process through to completion, even as timelines passed and attentions wandered. We are eternally indebted to him for his patience throughout the process, and his meticulous attention to details as drafts were revised. Thank you, Michael.

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Massive Rotator Cuff Tears

Diagnosis and Management

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