
Preface

Gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) is one of the most common medical disorders in the USA, and increasing worldwide, affecting approximately 40 % of the population. GERD may lead to Barrett's esophagus, which is a direct risk factor for esophageal adenocarcinoma of the esophagus. With the incidence of esophageal adenocarcinoma worldwide there is a growing interest in treatment options for gastroesophageal reflux disease. Over \$40 billion is spent annually for the treatment of GERD.

The mainstays of GERD treatment include medications and surgery. Antireflux surgery has been an important part of GERD therapy since the 1950s but lost its popularity with the advent of potent antacid medications, specifically proton pump inhibitors. However, in the 1990s laparoscopy introduced a renaissance in the interest in surgical treatment leading to an increase in antireflux procedures. Nevertheless, antireflux surgery is not a "one size fits all" procedure. The various degrees of anatomic derangement of the antireflux barrier, the pathophysiology of reflux, and the complex patient population seeking treatment are complicated and often not understood well enough by the consulting surgeon. Furthermore, the technical difficulty of the operations has led to a lack of consistency in outcomes bringing criticism to the field. Still, with up to 40 % of patients reporting dissatisfaction with current medical therapy, it is imperative that quality surgical options are available.

"Antireflux Surgery" represents the only resource of its kind designed to provide a comprehensive and state-of-the-art overview of the major issues specific to the field compiled as one reliable resource. The book provides exceptional instructional detail as well as comprehensive discussions of relevant pathophysiology. The book includes a comprehensive list of topics important to anyone involved in the care of patients with GERD but is tailored purposefully to meet the needs of the antireflux surgeon with chapters written by recognized esophageal experts from around the world.

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