

Preface

Since the first successful mesenteric endarterectomy by Shaw and Maynard in 1958, significant progress has been made in the diagnosis and treatment of mesenteric vascular diseases. Improvements in imaging modalities, medical therapy, and open and endovascular reconstruction have allowed treatment of acute and chronic mesenteric artery diseases with satisfactory results. Yet, delay in diagnosis remains a major problem given that mesenteric diseases are uncommon and often present with unspecific symptoms.

Mesenteric Vascular Disease: Current Therapy has one purpose, which is to fill the gap between clinical knowledge and the technical expertise needed to master novel open and endovascular approaches to treat a variety of mesenteric arterial and venous diseases. In that, the book is organized in a logical fashion to address basic concepts, imaging methods, and novel techniques of revascularization for acute and chronic arterial and venous disorders.

Special attention has been devoted to technical aspects of mesenteric reconstructions, open and endovascular. Because these diseases are uncommon and most surgeons have limited experience, we felt it was important to summarize the evolution of surgical approaches over the last decades using as much illustration as possible in a didactic manner. Endovascular therapy, which has become an essential skill for the vascular clinician, has been emphasized in several chapters given that most patients with mesenteric ischemia are currently treated in this manner. Whereas in the 1990s angioplasty was reserved for the elderly or higher-risk patient, today this modality is used whenever possible in suitable lesions independent of the patient's clinical risk. Because this field rapidly evolves as new devices and the technology that drives them changes in fast pace, it is critical that physicians are familiar with novel approaches. It is also equally important that the vascular specialist recognizes its limitations and when open treatment is indicated or advantageous.

It is the editor's hope that this collection of 34 chapters provided by a multispecialty international panel of faculty experts will help enhance the diagnosis and treatment of mesenteric vascular diseases – and, most importantly, patients in need with these disorders.

Rochester, MN, USA

Gustavo S. Oderich, MD, FACS

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