

Preface

The field of robotic prostatectomy is a rapidly evolving one. Newer techniques are allowing for shorter hospital times, faster recovery, and improved continence and erectile function. The speed at which surgical techniques and pre- and postoperative preparation are advancing is what prompted me to write this book. In it, I cover both the basics of robotic prostatectomy and the methods used by internationally recognized leaders in the field to maximize continence and erectile function. For truly, we are in a stage of medical and surgical practice in which curing the cancer is easy. Now we shift our focus to minimizing collateral damage.

The next frontier of robotic prostate surgery most definitely is not just curing the cancer, but also improving outcomes—with preserved continence and erectile function being at the top of a patient's priority list. With that in mind, this novel book is the first treatise in the world dedicated solely to the early return of continence and erectile function after robotic prostate surgery. The text is divided into 9 chapters, starting from the basic understanding of the anatomy and physiology of continence and potency and gradually evolving into the newer techniques to improve and hasten recovery of continence and erectile function.

What I found particularly useful while I was honing my personal surgical technique was watching videos of my surgeries and the videos of other experienced surgeons. In this manner, I was able to see what worked and what did not, and then tweak my procedure.

This is why we have included a series of videos as a companion to this book to help guide your study. Many chapters include references to videos that present the key points of each chapter. It is our hope that the reader finds these videos helpful.

At the end of the day, the most important thing to remember in robotic prostate surgery is to keep practicing. Even if a surgeon is not sitting at the console, maneuvering the joystick, and pressing the foot pedal, he or she can continue to watch videos, study the literature, and be open to dialogue with colleagues in the field of urologic oncology and perhaps even in other fields. In fact, it was a chance discussion with a neurosurgeon that prompted me to pioneer the use of human amniotic membrane in preserving nerve function during robotic prostatectomy, as will be discussed in Chap. 9. In due time, the novice will become an expert and will be

devising their own techniques to better improve outcomes, as the surgeons who have contributed to this book have done.

I would like to thank my colleagues for generously contributing chapters to this book. Each and every chapter has been very well written by colleagues who I hold in high esteem for their outstanding contribution to robotic prostate surgery. It was truly a collaborative effort. I would also like to thank my family for their tireless support, particularly my daughter Shirin, for taking time out of her busy medical school schedule to help me and my fellows organize our vast database of patients who have undergone robotic prostatectomies.

We the authors hope you enjoy this textbook. We took pains to make it relevant to today's practice and understandable to surgeons at all levels of the learning curve. The videos that accompany the book should not be ignored, for they may even better show concepts explained in the chapters.

Our best wishes are with you.

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