

Preface

The success of the first version of the *Atlas of Upper Gastrointestinal and Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Surgery*, published in 2007, encouraged us to prepare an updated version keeping the spirit of the original Atlas, and adding modifications, novelties, and new innovations in the technical aspects of these operative procedures. For the new edition, we added a leader in the field of Liver and Biliary Surgery from Asia, Dr. Masaru Miyazaki. Modifications of the text were needed in about 60% of the chapters, and modifications and additions in the artwork in about 30% of the chapters. To follow emerging developments in surgery, we added new approaches in laparoscopic and robotic surgery in many chapters. Also to enhance clarity, the liver section is now divided into transplant and non-transplant procedures. New procedures are described, such as the new two-staged liver resection ALPPS or the use of the new electroporation technology for targeted tumor ablation. Two new chapters were added to Section 1 on general principles including: general surgical devices for cutting and sealing and an introduction to robotic surgery, because this section showed highest rank in online downloads for the first edition of the Atlas.

Knowledge of anatomy and precise surgical technique remain the foundation of high-quality surgery. A knowledgeable surgeon, equipped with excellent theoretic and clinical skills, will only be accomplished when he or she masters the operative techniques of the practice of surgery. The legacy of an academic surgeon or a surgical educator relies in great part on the transmission of his or her surgical abilities to hands-on clinical practice. During the last few years, we as surgical educators felt more and more that teaching surgical skills and techniques are compromised due to the plethora of new information dealing with other aspects of surgery. The number of new procedures and techniques developed since the early 1990s, as for example, laparoscopic liver resection or Roux-en-Y gastric bypass, although offering obvious advantages for the patients, constitute a real technical challenge for us surgeons. Therefore, possibly more than ever before, surgeons need to update their knowledge about the various surgical procedures and techniques available.

In bringing forth the first and second editions of the atlas, our goal was to create a comprehensive and educational tool focusing on the upper abdomen and emphasizing all details of operative techniques including “tricks” from experienced surgeons. In view of the availability of many textbooks describing non-technical aspects of surgery, we purposely avoided

writing a text addressing the disease processes, but instead concentrated on the operative techniques, which are evolving rapidly. The technical aspects described are the real message of the atlas. We standardized the text associated with each procedure, covering a list of the most common indications and contraindications, a step-by-step description of the procedure, a list of the most common complications, and finally the insightful tricks of the experienced surgeon. We also included an introductory section covering basic principles of operative surgery including operative accesses, positioning of the patient, and the use of retractors, drains, staplers, and the newer devices to facilitate dissection, transection, and hemostasis both for laparoscopy and open surgery.

While a surgeon 50 years ago could treat diseases from head to toe, this concept has evolved, and today some degree of specialization is the rule worldwide. Most countries or accrediting authorities have designed various boards for sub-specializations; indeed, after a broad training in general surgery, many young surgeons will move on further into a specific field. Upper gastrointestinal and hepato-pancreato-biliary surgery have emerged as specialized fields of general surgery, including common procedures belonging to the scope of general surgery as well as complex procedures, that probably should be performed only by specialized surgeons. We opted for a comprehensive approach of upper gastrointestinal and hepato-pancreato-biliary surgery, covering most open and laparoscopic procedures ranging from straightforward procedures such as laparoscopic cholecystectomy to the more complex procedures, such as spleno-renal shunt and liver or pancreas transplantation.

This second edition of the *Atlas of Upper Gastrointestinal and Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Surgery* presents consistent illustrations created by a single artist. This approach is key to following a procedure, step-by-step, in a consistent and attractive manner. In selecting contributors from literally all around the world, we sought surgeons who had extensive and recognized experience with the procedure. The contributors are established educators and have successfully mentored many young surgeons.

The *Atlas of Upper Gastrointestinal and Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Surgery* is subdivided into seven sections, each coordinated by a section editor in a close collaboration with the artist. A balance was achieved in each procedure to highlight the educational message in combination with the art of medical drawing.

Based on the personal experience of the expert authors, a few tricks are presented at the end of each procedure. Some procedures, such as those related to portal hypertension, are becoming less popular. This atlas may contribute significantly to preserving the accumulating knowledge of these demanding surgical procedures as these procedures become less frequent.

The second edition of the *Atlas of Upper Gastrointestinal and Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Surgery* is intended for students and residents in surgery and for fellows specializing in upper gastrointestinal and hepato-pancreato-biliary surgery preparing themselves for the operation. At the same time, this atlas will be useful for specialists and general surgeons who may compare their techniques with the one described herein or find some additional help or tricks when performing rare procedures.

In summary, we believe that the second edition of the *Atlas of Upper Gastrointestinal and Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Surgery* is truly a new atlas, new in concept, and new in scope.

We hope that specialists as well as surgeons at various levels of training will benefit from this huge effort, combining the work of many experts, a gifted artist, and the publisher.

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