
Preface

Acute care surgery continues to evolve as a specialty. With the growing patient need for access to emergency surgical services, acute care surgeons are providing much needed care for patients with urgent or emergent surgical disease. The field of acute care surgery has continued to evolve and expand in response to this need for reliable access to emergency surgical care. The care of the emergency surgical patient presents a complex set of challenges for surgeons. An understanding of the technical aspects of an operation combined with the presence of severe physiologic derangements presents a unique set of challenges to the surgeon. In order to deliver optimal care, the acute care surgeon must have expertise in both surgery and critical care. They must be facile with both open and laparoscopic surgical techniques, be familiar with the various diagnostic modalities available, be able to understand optimal resuscitation strategies, and be able to coordinate the care team in order to deliver rapid, evidence-based care for these challenging patients.

Common Problems in Acute Care Surgery, 2nd edition, addresses the common surgical emergencies encountered by acute care surgeons. The purpose of this text is to provide both trainees and practicing surgeons a comprehensive, evidence-based review of the most common clinical problems encountered by acute care surgeons. This second edition of the textbook includes updates to all of the topics from the first edition, as well as several new topics including the management of intra-abdominal infections, the management of the open abdomen, and hemodynamic monitoring of the critically ill surgical patient. The book is organized into three main sections. The first section focuses on general principles of acute care surgery including the initial evaluation and resuscitation, the perioperative management of the hemodynamically unstable patient, and common critical care issues encountered in the management of these patients. The second section focuses on specific disease states that are commonly encountered by acute care surgeons. Each chapter in this section addresses a specific clinical problem by describing the epidemiology, clinical presentation, diagnosis, management (including pertinent operative techniques), potential complications, and follow-up. The third and final section focuses on ethics and legal issues frequently encountered in acute care surgery.

Each of the authors in this text was selected for their expertise in the field of acute care surgery. We are grateful to the many surgeons who devoted countless hours in the preparation of this text. The end result is a resource that we hope will assist acute care surgeons in delivering compassionate, evidence-based care to the emergency surgical patient.

Houston, TX, USA

Laura J. Moore
S. Rob Todd

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Moore, L.J.; Todd, S.R. (Eds.)

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