
Preface

Hernia repairs, both inguinal and ventral/incisional, are some of the most common surgeries performed in the world. Over the last 5 years, the field of hernia surgery has had a significant transformation thanks to a large number of new and innovative surgical techniques as well as an exponential growth in mesh and mesh technology. Increased focus on hernia surgery has led to improved research and outcomes data and has provided strategies to treat both simple and complex hernias. Secondary to the increased complexity of patients and new techniques and mesh products available, there has been a renewed interest in hernia surgery amongst the general and plastic surgery community.

This textbook provides a comprehensive, state-of-the-art review of the field of hernia surgery and serves as a valuable resource for clinicians, surgeons, and researchers with an interest in both inguinal and ventral/incisional hernia. This book gives an overview of the current understanding of the biologic basis of hernia formation as well as lays the foundation for the importance of hernia research and outcomes assessment. Diagnosis and management strategies for inguinal and ventral hernia will be discussed in detail with separate techniques sections for the most widely used procedures in this field as well as emerging technologies such as robotic and single incision surgery. Pertinent associated topics to inguinal hernia surgery such as chronic groin and athletic pubalgia are covered in detail. For incisional hernias, associated topics such as hernia prevention and enhanced recovery protocols are discussed. For both inguinal and ventral/incisional hernias, mesh choices and available mesh technologies are discussed in detail as this remains an often confusing matter for the general surgery. When appropriate, chapters to highlight controversies in care will be highlighted such as the use of synthetic mesh in contaminated surgery and laparoscopic closure of defects in laparoscopic ventral hernia repair. Other topics that are seldom discussed but may be of value to hernia surgeons include a discussion on the use of social media for hernia education and hernia repair in underserved areas.

We hope to give the reader an all-encompassing and wide overview of all types of abdominal wall hernias and highlight common open and laparoscopic techniques and current recommendations for patient management. This textbook provides a concise yet comprehensive summary of the current status of the field that will help guide patient management and stimulate investigative efforts. All chapters are written by experts in their fields and include the most up to date scientific and clinical information.

A book of this scope and breadth is a major undertaking, and we wish to thank all the wonderful authors and Tracy Marton for her assistance in preparing this book.

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