
Preface

For the last 16 years, I have operated on and cared for patients affected by obesity and been humbled by their resilience and determination to overcome their disease. They continually inspire me to seek answers to improve their health. Patients with obesity are uniquely complex. When they arrive for their bariatric surgical procedure, their general health in most cases is already severely compromised by a plethora of pre-existing obesity-related diseases. This sets the stage for a perfect storm of complications to occur. The expert management of these complications, both short and long term, is essential to achieving good care and good results. Having personally performed over 5000 metabolic and bariatric surgeries, I have had the privilege of managing the complications of bariatric surgeries in concert with many dedicated colleagues. Together we have learned how to anticipate complications, what to watch for, and how best to react. Sharing what we have learned allows us to help improve care for all patients with obesity.

Obesity and overweight affects over 60 % of the population. People with obesity and obesity-related disease make up a large number of the patients managed by the primary care community. After unsuccessfully pursuing various remedies to reduce their weight, some of these patients eventually opt for surgical intervention. Over 180,000 people a year will undergo bariatric surgery and be cared for not only by bariatric surgeons but also by many other members of the health care community at different points along the way. Complications, if and when they occur, must be optimally handled in order to avoid poor patient outcomes. Doctors in the emergency department, gastroenterologists, general surgeons, primary care doctors, and integrated health staff will have primary responsibility for the evaluation and management of these complications.

The purpose of this book is to provide guidance to those frontline providers who will manage acute emergencies and chronic long-term problems in this population of patients. Each chapter is written by experts in that field and based on current peer-reviewed literature. The book provides a focused approach to the identification and treatment of bariatric surgery complications.

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Bariatric Surgery Complications

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