
Preface

Advanced endoscopic procedures and endoluminal interventions have continued to experience tremendous growth in both community and academic settings. Many technical advances in endoscopic tools and platforms have transformed the way we treat patients with colon and rectal diseases. As surgeons explore less invasive surgical techniques and gastroenterologists more complex therapeutic endoscopic procedures, the convergence of interests will lead to further innovations and evolution of the way we treat our patients.

Although surgeons such as Hiromi Shinya and William Wolff pioneered therapeutic endoscopy, we have largely relinquished the practice of endoscopy to our gastroenterology colleagues. However, as endoscopic tools become more practical and sophisticated, endoscopy is finding its way back to the operating rooms as an adjunctive surgical tool. The ability to assess the integrity of the surgical anastomosis, locate benign and malignant colonic neoplasms, and control bleeding, among other things, is becoming invaluable during lower intestinal surgery. More and more surgeons are realizing the importance of incorporating endoscopic skills to their surgical armamentarium.

Frank Veith, in his presidential address to the Society for Vascular Surgery in 1996, emphasized that in order for vascular surgeons to adapt to the changing medical environment at the time, they must acquire endovascular skills. At that time vascular surgeons found themselves at a crossroad. Without fully embracing therapeutic endovascular surgical techniques, vascular surgeons were at risk of being left out. As surgeons who care for patients with colon and rectal diseases, we wonder whether we are at the same crossroad. Do we need to fully embrace endoscopic and endoluminal surgery in order to stay relevant?

In this textbook, we try to provide an overview of basic to advanced endoscopic techniques. Each chapter includes a narrative by the authors on his/her technical details and “tips and tricks” that they utilize in dealing with complex technical situations. Additionally, where appropriate, links to online downloadable videos will give an up-front look into technical aspects of EMR, ESD, endoscopic stent placement, and CELS. We feel very fortunate to include many world experts in the area of endoscopy as authors of our textbook. We are truly grateful for their time and contributions. We hope our textbook will stimulate further discussions and lead to better patient outcomes.

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