

Preface

This first edition of *Osteonecrosis of the Femoral Head: A Clinical Casebook* assembles the various treatment options available for management of osteonecrosis of the femoral head (ONFH). Its goal is to provide the practicing hip surgeon and medical practitioner with an easy-to-read, case-based discussion on the modern treatment of ONFH, with special emphasis on early or pre-collapse stages.

The prevalence of ONFH seems to be on the rise and related to the medical treatment of life-threatening conditions such as cancers, organ transplantation, and/or treatment of rheumatologic conditions with a combination of steroid regimens. The condition affects very young patients and unfortunately still carries a fairly poor prognosis if left untreated. Diagnosing the condition early will give us the option of treating this condition in early stages in order to delay or avoid completely total hip arthroplasty (THA). Although THA is an option for late-stage ON, it is imperative for us to understand the pros and cons of the various surgical procedures that have been performed around the world for the management of early-stage ON in an effort to provide pain relief and delay progression. This book compiles a number of treatment options for management of early-stage ON. Furthermore, the treatment of post-collapse ON is discussed, presenting cases of several salvage procedures or THA.

We gathered leaders from around the world to discuss the surgical treatment for this condition and their outcomes. In each chapter, a description of the patient, the work-up and diagnosis, and surgical strategies are presented, with an

in-depth discussion of the potential pitfalls or complications that can occur with each procedure. The reader will therefore obtain the knowledge required for managing the patient and understand the surgical technique and complexity of the procedure to be performed.

The innovative format of this book represents the future of medical education. More and more conferences are moving toward case-based format education as it represents for the clinician a real-life situation that is easy to remember and learn. This is the first book to gather the combined international experience for treatment of ON, uniting treatment recommendations across three continents. I have to thank the chapter authors for their expertise, for their lifelong journey in studying and treating this difficult condition, and certainly for dedicating the time that was required to write the chapters. I would like to acknowledge the support and assistance of Springer and their contributors for the organization of the chapters and dedicate this book to my wife, Victoria, and my two children, Sofia and Rafico, for their continued support throughout the years.

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