
Preface

Patients who present with emergency general surgical problems often have profound physiologic derangements that require immediate correction and stabilization prior to planning a diagnostic approach. This varies from the classic approach we were taught that culminates in history taking, formulating a differential diagnosis, obtaining laboratory and imaging studies, and initiating treatment. The acute care surgeon should be aggressive, take ownership, and promptly begin treatment often without having all the information in these situations. The goal is to correct life-threatening physiology either concurrently or prior to definitive anatomic correction which can be delayed.

Despite the advent of modern imaging and state-of-the-art technology, we feel that little has changed in the approach to the emergency general surgical patient. The surgeon should always strive to learn “when to operate, how to operate, and when not to operate.” From your surgical training, you already recognize that there are different ways to skin a cat. Our intention is not to reinvent the wheel but rather to provide easily digestible, quick overviews that cover essential points with the various acceptable treatment modalities. Special emphasis is placed on keeping therapeutic approaches as straightforward and simple as possible to achieve the best outcomes. We feel that what sets this book apart are the detailed photographs from our real patients’ cases that complement the text. In addition, every chapter has a useful clinical pearl to serve as a catchy memory aid when dealing with difficult acute general surgical emergencies.

We are interested in what our readers think and will gladly respond to any suggestions or questions (dr.madbak@gmail.com).

We are especially indebted to our developmental editor, Connie Walsh, and our friend and colleague, Dr. Rakkiat Prasongdee, for providing some of the photographs.

Camp Hill, USA
Jacksonville, USA
November 2016

Dale A. Dangleben
Firas G. Madbak

Acute Care General Surgery

Workup and Management

Dangleben, D.; Madbak, F.G. (Eds.)

2017, XII, 171 p. 72 illus., 50 illus. in color., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-319-52254-8