
Preface for English Edition

Anatomy Atlas and Interpretation of Spine Surgery has been widely recognized and highly praised by spine surgeons and readers after its first publication in China in 2015 mainly for three reasons:

1. This book highlights the anatomical key points for preventing surgical difficulties and complications, along with real anatomical images instead of tedious texts, to provide readers with more reliable information and easier understanding and mastering of the key surgical techniques. Unlike traditional anatomy atlas that contains abstract and obscure descriptions which are hard to understand, or textbook of surgery that introduces surgical approaches without fully illustrating the anatomical key points, the combination of anatomical and surgical illustrations in this book not only helps complement the shortcomings in either areas, but it also meets the needs of spine surgeons and drives innovation.
2. With the advancement of spine surgery and surgical techniques, it is important for spine surgeons to study and be more familiarized with anatomical key points in greater details. For example, in order for surgeons to shorten the learning curve and master new techniques more quickly, such as the new minimally invasive surgical techniques for the lumbar vertebrae (XLIF, OLIF, ALIF) that emerged in recent years, they will require greater and more comprehensive knowledge of the anatomy. Considering these needs, this book is customized to point out the anatomical key points for studying and mastering the new surgical techniques and to provide insights into the development of new surgical approaches.
3. Every detailed anatomical image in this book is the result of the countless hours and effort our spine surgeons and anatomy experts have spent on dissecting, taking photos, and marking the anatomical key points. It took almost 3 years of patience and perfection to complete the second edition, in which the labeled diagrams are now accompanied by the original photos so that readers cannot only identify the anatomical points accurately but they can also gain a clear visualization from the images that words simply cannot provide. This book is a first-class work that condenses the wisdom of spine surgeons and anatomy experts and a valuable tool that provides preoperative guidance, intraoperative references, and postoperative review for spine surgeons. Its innovative format and authentic contents are also the main reasons behind the praise and love from the readers.

While writing this book, we have also received many guidance and valuable advice from the academicians of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, Professor Yinghao Sun, Professor Guixing Qiu, Professor Shizhen Zhong, and numerous renowned Chinese spine experts, including Professor Lianshun Jia, Professor Shuxun Hou, Professor Yan Wang, Professor Yingze Zhang, Professor Wei Tian, Professor Yong Qiu, Professor Jianyuan Jiang, and many others. This book is the fruit of all the hard work put together by many Chinese surgeons and experts.

We sincerely hope that with the global release of this book, we will receive more guidance, opinions, and advice from leading experts worldwide to help us continuously enrich and improve this work. We also hope that this book can serve as an academic reference to international spine surgeons and contribute to the development of spine surgery worldwide.

Shanghai, China

Jiangang Shi
May 15, 2017

Preface for Chinese Edition

While compiling *Corrections on the Errors of Medical Works*, the anatomist and physician in the Qing Dynasty once said, “Writing medical works without understanding viscera and bowels is nothing different from talking nonsense by a fool; treating diseases without understanding viscera and bowels is nothing short of blind men walking in the dark.” Anatomy plays an important role in the ability of a physician to perform satisfactory medical work, and the same is true for spine surgeons. With greater understanding of spine diseases, the therapeutic methods for spine diseases, including surgical concepts, approaches, and techniques, are also keeping pace with the time. The accomplishment of these improvements and their clinical application require further understanding of anatomical knowledge, which constitutes the basis for writing this book.

Based on the completed spine surgeries, the authors have summarized the clinical experience of around 30,000 cervical spine operations, and over 6000 upper cervical, thoracic, and lumbar spine operations, and has clearly demonstrated significant anatomical features by means of various types of specimens to help solve the key clinical problems encountered in surgical procedures where complications may easily occur. Each anatomical figure in this book was completed after about 2 years of preparation in accordance to the relevant surgical needs, and it allows spine surgeons to become familiarized with the spinal structures as well as the surrounding tissues so that they can perform surgeries with ease and reduce surgical complications. Therefore, this book will serve as a perfect companion for spine surgeons.

This book has condensed years of clinical experiences on spinal diseases from numerous orthopedic specialists in the Spine Surgery Department of Shanghai Changzheng Hospital, as well as the work on spine anatomy by the Anatomy Teaching and Research Office of the Second Military Medical University. What is especially valuable in the book is that the authors have the surgical technique interpretation displayed in a clear and “visible” way through the use of specimen anatomical figures.

The compilation of this book owes much to the help of numerous specialists from the Chinese Medical Doctor Association, Third Affiliated Hospital of Beijing University, General Hospital of the People’s Liberation Army, Beijing Jishuitan Hospital, Huashan Hospital Affiliated to Fudan University, Ruijin Hospital Affiliated to Shanghai Jiaotong University, Southern Medical University, and Second Military Medical University. I would like to extend my deep gratitude for all the help in this regard.

This book was compiled by several authors during their spare time, amidst their onerous daily clinical work, and as a result has exhausted almost all of their rest time. Nonetheless, there may still be inadequacies in this book, and therefore readers’ remarks will be much appreciated for the perfection of this book in its subsequent editions.

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