

# Foreword

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF SURGICAL TECHNIQUE IN SURGICAL ONCOLOGY**

Quality surgery is crucial for the management of all solid malignant tumours. A multidisciplinary approach is accepted and therefore chemotherapy and radiotherapy will contribute enormously to a satisfactory outcome. However, very few studies have demonstrated that these or other modalities will correct for inadequate excisional surgery. Surgeons must have a leadership role in multidisciplinary care so that possibilities, but also limitations, of non surgical treatments will be evaluated before a major resection is undertaken.

Surgeons have four major responsibilities in dealing with cancers. The cancer should be removed with a clear margin of excision to avoid local recurrence, which can be devastating. The surgeon must excise draining lymph nodes which will improve prognosis but also determine whether adjuvant therapy is required. Thirdly, it is essential to achieve these aims with a low morbidity and mortality. Accordingly, careful and fastidious technique in excision and reconstruction is paramount. Finally, the surgeon must be cognisant of the need for good cosmetic results to improve the quality of life. These procedures should be well documented so that the surgeon can review the results of short- and long-term outcomes.

In this book, Professor Audisio and colleagues have provided surgical oncologists with a practical, clinical and technical reference for dealing with malignant disease. All the common, as well as not so common, malignancies are included and in each case, the contributors are recognised experts in their field. The book provides essential basic information, but in addition, is full of good sense and tips for achieving optimal surgical results.

It is highly unlikely that an individual surgeon will attempt all the different procedures described in this book but rather will concentrate on a single specialty field, e.g. a colorectal surgeon might delve into TME for rectal cancer, robotic assisted laparoscopic surgery, total proctocolectomy and ileoanal pouch, reconstruction of the perineum, how to make a good stoma, pelvic extenteration for rectal cancer, extended hepatectomy, and atypical liver resections for colorectal liver metastases. For those wishing to hone their plastic and reconstructive skills as part of a surgical oncological practice, there are important chapters on flap technology and reconstructive techniques, breast reconstructive techniques, skill/nipple sparing mastectomy and reconstruction of the perineum by a gluteal fold flap. There is also much to interest head and neck surgeons with total thyroidectomy, neck dissection for thyroid carcinoma, total laryngectomy, and total parotidectomy.

These are merely examples of a comprehensive collection of important technical articles for both the surgeon-in-training and the experienced consultant. The European Society of Surgical Oncology supports training of its members through courses and lectures but also through important initiatives such as this book in the anticipation that outcomes for our patients will be improved.

The authors are to be congratulated for providing this valuable addition to the literature on crucially important technical aspects of surgical oncology.

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