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Pediatric Thoracic Surgery

 Springer

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Editors

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Foreword

In most parts of the world the treatment of adults with surgically correctable abnormalities of the thorax and its contents is provided by specially trained thoracic surgeons. On the other hand, in children pediatric general surgeons usually take on this role because of their training in the surgical care of sick infants and children, and their experience with the management of congenital malformations. In an ideal world the treatment of surgical disorders of the thorax in children would be provided by a super specialist, but this is neither practical nor possible. This text provides information that will help bridge the gap for a group of conditions often only encountered rarely by otherwise experienced surgeons.

This book is not designed to be a textbook of operative surgery. Instead the broad scope is to provide important up to date information and reference material relating to most of the thoracic surgical conditions seen in childhood. The editors and contributors have ably met their goal to give the reader the proper medical and surgical principles needed to treat these childhood conditions.

One can't help to note the impressive array of authors from around the world. When I first started out in pediatric surgery only a few pediatric surgeons in a few centers would dare tackle some of the abnormalities noted in these chapters. Others who dared, because they had no other choice, often failed. Now it is clear that globalization has truly come to our discipline. The benefits to children in every corner of the earth cannot be overestimated.

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Preface

Most pediatric surgeons operate on the chest. Some operate with confidence, some with trepidation. The concept behind this project was to publish a comprehensive textbook of pediatric thoracic surgery that would assist surgeons in both groups.

The book includes forty seven chapters which provide a broad coverage of thoracic surgical problems in children including diseases of the lung and pleural space, the esophagus, mediastinum, diaphragm and chest wall. Chapters on basic science and respiratory medicine are interspersed with more exclusively surgical chapters partly to gain perspective and partly because successful management of the more complex thoracic problems in children requires close collaboration between physicians and surgeons.

Although we wanted to allow the contributing authors a lot of freedom to express their ideas and experience every effort has been made to achieve a uniform style for each chapter. The general organisation of text includes historical perspective, incidence, investigations, diagnosis, differential diagnosis, management and future perspectives. The chapters are well referenced and, we believe, present a balanced view of contemporary practice.

The editors are experienced paediatric thoracic surgeons from the UK, North America and Australia. The authors have all been chosen carefully for their recognised expertise and we are proud to include experts from all corners of the globe. The effort involved in making this textbook a reality has been exhausting. We hope the final result achieves the original aim.

We would like to acknowledge the thoughtful contributions to the book from all the authors with much gratitude. We also express our thanks to Melissa Morton, Senior Editor at Springer, and her editorial assistants, in particular Lauren Stoney, who provided professional support and encouragement throughout the writing of this book. Finally, we must record our sincere thanks to Sunil Padman, at SPi Technologies, without whom this book would never have reached print.

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Section 1

Fundamental Considerations