Role of Minimally Invasive Surgery in Management of Disorders of the Gastrointestinal Tract

Nathaniel J. Soper · Marco G. Patti

Published online: 12 March 2011
© Société Internationale de Chirurgie 2011

The Collegium Internationale Chirurgiae Digestivae was organized in 1969 as an off-shoot of the International Society of Surgery. The mission of the organization was to gather gastrointestinal surgeons from around the world to discuss and debate digestive surgical issues in a specialized, yet open, forum. In 1998, the name of this organization was changed to the International Society for Digestive Surgery (ISDS) to reflect the global recognition of digestive surgery as a major specialty during the twenty-first century. Members of this organization, then, investigate the optimal means by which surgical diseases involving the gastrointestinal tract, from mouth to anus, may be optimally treated.

The articles included in this symposium for the *World Journal of Surgery* reflect the effects of the “laparoscopic revolution” on digestive surgery. Beginning little more than two decades ago, the application of “minimally invasive” or “minimal access” techniques has largely replaced laparotomy for the treatment of many digestive

disease and hernias of the abdominal wall. We now appreciate that although incisions do indeed heal side-to-side and not end-to-end, there are major advantages to minimizing bodily trauma when the operation can otherwise accomplish the same goals as a traditional approach. In some areas of gastrointestinal surgery, laparoscopy has essentially replaced laparotomy; in others, the role of minimally invasive techniques has had far less impact. The proper place for each approach has evolved over time.

In this symposium, ISDS members discuss the current state of surgery for specific disorders of the gastrointestinal tract, largely concentrating on the appropriate application of minimal access techniques. These internationally renowned experts frame the issues and discuss the state-of-the-art of minimally invasive gastrointestinal surgery for 2011. We thank the authors for their important contributions to this symposium and for sharing their expertise with the readership.

N. J. Soper
Department of Surgery, Northwestern University Feinberg
School of Medicine, Chicago, IL, USA

M. G. Patti (✉)
Department of Surgery, University of Chicago Pritzker School
of Medicine, Chicago, IL, USA
e-mail: mpatti@surgery.bsd.uchicago.edu