

## Book Review

**Scott-Conner, C. E. H. (ed.): Chassin's Operative Strategy in General Surgery.** An Expositive Atlas. 3rd ed. XXX, 961 pp; 1113 ill. Springer, Berlin Heidelberg, 2002. Hardcover EUR <D> 223.63.

“The art of surgery”, as life itself, represents a continuous process and thus is subject to a permanent increase of the “logos”. Due to the rapid developments in surgery and communication technology it is quite hard to keep ahead with what is termed the “current knowledge”.

Therefore, “Chassin's Operative Strategy in General Surgery” represents a contribution of profound importance. It facilitates to step into the fascinating field of general surgery. It aims to develop a way of thinking in the design and structuring of a surgical procedure. In addition, this third edition of the text book also includes new developments in general surgery, such as minimally invasive surgery, novel technologies, and evidence-based medicine.

The big advantage of “Chassin's Operative Strategy in General Surgery” relies to the fact that all contributions are following the common theme of “concepts and strategies of surgery”. Therefore, all articles are uniformly structured presenting indications, preoperative preparation, most importantly pit falls and danger points, and operative strategy of surgi-

cal techniques. Thus, this text book helps to make operations easy and save. Clarity and comprehensiveness of description are profoundly supported by inclusion of clear and distinct illustrations (in total, more than one thousand of them). Therefore the book is easy to read.

Starting with general principles of surgery (developing a concept, establishing a strategy, positioning of surgeon and assistance, techniques and technologies of tissue dissection, control of bleeding, antiseptis), the book deals with main topics in esophageal, gastric, intestinal, colorectal, anal, hepatobiliary, pancreatic, hernia, breast, and endocrine surgery. Referring to evidence-based data, chapters are included comparing minimal and conventional approaches for surgical treatment of a disease (i.e., hernia repair, appendectomy). Finally, the attention of the reader is directed towards concepts of surgical oncology (i.e., sentinel node surgery, neoadjuvant radiation and chemotherapy). However, it does not claim to be authorized on that topic and therefore refers to additional literature.

In conclusion, this text book is recommended as a basis of a teaching program in general surgery. It is an excellent guide to get into surgery and to develop a “surgical thinking”. However, it does not spare subsequent reading of books dedicated to specialized topics of general surgery. Suggested references for further reading are included in the text book.

*Martin Riegler, Vienna*