Book review

Luigi Bonavina (ed) Innovation in Esophageal Surgery. 2012, XIV, 136 p., 59 illus., 54 in color. Springer, 2012. Available formats: e-book (available per PDF-download): ISBN 978-88-470-2469-4: 99.99 €|£ 90.00|\$ 139.00. Hardcover: ISBN 978-88-470-2468-7: 106.99 € (D)|109.99 € (A)|CHF 133.50

Innovation in esophageal surgery: be effective

For most general surgeons, gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) and other functional disorders of the esophagus (achalasia, esophageal spasm) commence to attract their attention, when surgical treatment is considered: laparoscopic antireflux surgery, esophagectomy, minimal invasive Heller's myotomy (laparoscopic, endoscopic). The rest is largely taken care of somehow, more or less by gastroenterologists and general physicians and manifests as an increase in the administration of proton pump inhibitor. Since this practice is paralleled by a worldwide increase in the frequency and incidence of the morphological manifestation of GERD, i.e., adenocarcinoma of the esophagus, we have to question if it may be justified to over-think and change our policies. May it be that we need to offer holistic management of esophageal disease; may it be that patients search for experts in the diagnosis and therapy of esophageal disease irrespective of their professional origin and medical speciality, i.e., gastroenterology, ENT, radiology, physiology, pathology, and surgery?

The modern understanding of the pathophysiology underlying GERD teaches that it requires special, holistic attention and care. We have to be aware that patients wish to seek care in specialized centers with respective expertise in the diagnosis and therapy of GERD and other functional disorders of the esophagus.

Going in line with the above considerations, the new book is out now, entitled *Innovation in Esophageal Surgery*, Springer, edited by the outstanding and famous expert esophageal surgeon Luigi Bonavina from Milano, Italy. Based on our novel understanding, the book presents the entire spectrum of diagnosis and therapy of GERD, implementing the new technologies. Well written and structured by known expert esophagologists with worldwide reputation in the field, the book includes novel modalities for diagnosis and treatment including HR manometry, impedance pH monitoring, endoscopy, histopathology of columnar-lined esophagus according to the Chandrasoma classification, cancer prevention by radiofrequency ablation of Barrett's esophagus, transoral esophageal myotomy (POEM) for the treatment of achalasia, the magnetic sphincter augmentation (LINX System) to eliminate reflux, and modern types of esophageal resections, oncology and perioperative management (nutrition). Contributions on technical aspects of esophageal anastomosis, education and training in esophageal surgery round up the book to give it the holistic touch. Most importantly the wonderful work is framed by a foreword and the clear and highly motivating closing outlook remarks by Tom DeMeester from Los Angeles, the major innovator of esophageal surgery and diagnosis in the last 40 years. Based on the current developments, health care will be centered around experts with respective expertise in the diagnosis and therapy of esophageal diseases. Subspecialization will become the prerequisite for effective and durable medical care to meet the needs of the patients. Finally, the chain of humanistic stream, which definitely breathes through the entire book is closed by the touching acknowledgement by Luigi Bonavina, where he points toward humility and the awareness—that nothing in life is for granted—there is no birth of ideas and maintenance of innovative progress without the immense, intensive support and love of those behind including teachers, mentors, parents, wives, children, and the patients, who allow us to learn and better understand disease.

Taken together, this fascinating book is highly recommended and almost a MUST to surgeons interested in the modern holistic management of GERD and esophageal cancer and who are not afraid of being better than good. Be best, stay tuned, and have fun in providing best medical care to your patients who need focused diagnosis and treatment of esophageal disease (GERD, achalasia) and effective cancer prevention (Barrett's esophagus). Enjoy reading the book and have a great day.

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