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With 262 Figures

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Series Editor's Foreword

The title of this book is a challenge. Anyone with the least knowledge of present day urology will know that there are many very controversial aspects of this subject. Urology is not alone in this unsettled environment for there are similar debates in almost all other aspects of surgery. In addition to the rapid changes in technology, an important part of the explanation for these controversies is simply that more surgeons are prepared to admit that no area of their work is so established that it does not bear further scrutiny and assessment.

Argument can be tedious but debate is healthy. This book aims to present material that is debatable: experienced practitioners of each topic explain why an opinion or preference can be sustained. The purist might wish to have these opinions resolved by a well-planned clinical trial, but experience of clinical trials shows that they do not always produce results that are easily translated into a positive change in clinical practice. Would the reader be persuaded more by a statistically significant difference or by an experienced clinician who has reached certain conclusions? Both are risky, but since surgical techniques are often not easily converted into appropriate studies or trials the Editors have obtained the best opinion on each controversy and innovation. The media adore controversy for its own sake. The medical profession accepts controversy but knows that few events in medicine are absolute and few procedures can be done only by one method.

The Editors have planned their material in nine sections, and each section opens with an introduction that sets the scene. The subsequent chapters give state of the art commentaries on each problem or procedure.

An innovation is a new thought, development or technique and the Editors invited their contributors to include innovative material where appropriate. This approach allows the reader to determine how these innovations relate to the changing pattern of management.

The summation of this novel approach to a urological text provides an exciting, readable volume that fulfills the aims of this Series—to provide a useful, stimulating contribution to the clinical practice of urology.

Edinburgh
June 1988

Geoffrey D. Chisholm.

Preface

The main aim of this volume is to bring the general urologist and urologist in training up to date with some of the many advances in urological surgical practice. There have been considerable developments in this respect, and there often exists a choice of surgical procedures for the same problem. How are these newer techniques undertaken and what is their place in the management of specific urological problems? Certain innovative procedures have recently become well established and are already altering urological surgical practice. There has been an increasing tendency for specialist interests to develop within urology. This trend is inevitable, and for the further development and advancement of urological surgery as a specialty it is necessary. However, it is important for the general urologist to be aware of these developments and be guided in his approach to certain surgical controversies. We have in this volume asked recognised experts to outline their techniques clearly and concisely and we have attempted to evaluate their role in the management of specific problems.

We have also included much less commonly applied surgical procedures, many of which, although well established, are so infrequently undertaken by the general urologist that they engender some degree of concern in the operator. We consider that a description by an expert of his own technique is very appropriate and valuable. We have included a wide range of techniques, from minor to relatively major, that can readily be undertaken with guidance by the general urologist. With the more major procedures, the reader would be prudent to avail himself of more practical help than that given by this book alone. It is not intended that this should be a surgical operative's manual but a practically orientated guide to surgical innovations in urology and their role in current urological practice – a sort of urological “how I do it and why”. Therefore, we have included contributions from urologists who have

either themselves developed specific surgical techniques or have considerable personal experience in the management of particular urological conditions and are able to provide guidance for the reader who has to deal with these problems.

Bristol, 1988

J. C. Gingell
P. H. Abrams

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