

Mastery of Endoscopic and Laparoscopic Surgery

Edited by P.T. Cohen, M.A. Sande and P.A. Volberding. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, P.O. Box 1640, Hagerstown, MD 21741-1640. Price: \$125.00. ISBN: 0-316-14903-9.

This is a large hard cover book with over 600 pages, divided into 8 sections. Each section is subdivided into several chapters and the whole book has 59 chapters. The chapters were written by many contributors from different parts of the world. The first section is the history of laparoscopy and endoscopy, and also covers intraoperative care for patients going for laparoscopy and endoscopy. It deals as well with other diagnostic tools that can be used during endoscopy and laparoscopy, i.e., ultrasound and types of laparoscopy, with one chapter on gasless laparoscopy.

The second section deals with esophagus and stomach laparoscopic and endoscopic aspects. Section III consists of laparoscopic surgery for liver and gallbladder. Section IV is on endocrine tumors, and includes pancreatic surgery, spleen surgery and adrenal surgery. Section V deals with abdominal wall problems. The last few sections cover chest endoscopy and laparoscopic surgery, and deal with such miscellaneous topics as vascular access, cardiac surgery, gynecological surgery, urology, pediatric, plastic and spine surgery.

Each chapter has an introduction, followed by indications and contraindications, then a small paragraph for preoperative preparation and anatomical consideration. This is followed by the procedure itself and then postoperative care and possible complications. Each chapter also has a conclusion, followed by suggested readings concerning the subject, and ends with the Editor's comments.

I found this book very well written by the many experts in the field. It has high-quality illustrations, including clear sketches, drawings of the procedures themselves, and some anatomical considerations, that will be very helpful to surgeons practicing endoscopy. This book will aid any surgeon who would like to practice laparoscopic endoscopy, but it will not preclude attending special courses and hands-on experience in specialized units practicing laparoscopy/endoscopy. This book will be very useful to junior residents who are being trained in laparoscopy during their residency program.

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Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Control, 2nd Edition

Edited by C. Glen Mayhall. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, P.O. Box 1640, Hagerstown, MD 21741-1640. ISBN: 0-683-30608-1.

This is a well-crafted and extensively referenced multi-authored textbook that provides a thorough review of the literature in the advancing field of hospital epidemiology and infection control. The main objective of this excellently revised edition of the book is to present an overview of the expanding field of epidemiology of nosocomial infections and infection control issues related to health care facilities. The textbook is divided into 15 sections and a total of 100 chapters. The first section describes the principles of applied epidemiology and biostatistics in hospital epidemiology and infection control, including the addition of a new chapter on how to recognize and control pseudoinfections and pseudo-outbreaks. The second section provides a conceptual framework on computers and information management systems in hospitals and other health care organizations. Sections 3 and 4 constitute the major portions of the textbook which review in detail all types of nosocomial infections including an updated CDC definition and preventive strategies. In particular, I found the classification of intravascular device-related infections into short- and long-term vascular access to be useful and clinically relevant. The chapters on epidemiology and prevention of nosocomial infections in the special patient population, such as pediatrics, solid organ and bone marrow transplant patients, are informative, concise and practical. The chapter on the hazard of re-using single-use items is acknowledged. The economics, ethical and legal considerations related to the re-use of disposable items in hospitals are discussed. The chapters on the role of antimicrobial agents and the emergence of recently recognized multiresistant nosocomial pathogens are well-written, updated and clinically relevant. An excellent step-by-step method on how to utilize the World Wide Web resources in hospital epidemiology and infection control is presented in an easy-to-read style of writing. It describes how the Internet is utilized to obtain high-quality information on solving clinical problems, keeping up to date and developing clinical policies. In the age of evidence-based medicine, the textbook elegantly describes a systematic approach on how to access, critically appraise and apply the current literature to solve infection control problems, in Chapters 83 and 84. The final chapters of the textbook discuss a multi-disciplinary approach to

organizing and implementing an accredited infection control program.

Overall, this is a superb addition to the growing number of textbooks in the field of hospital epidemiology and infection control. The book is refreshingly written, up to date and informative. The diagrams are well chosen, and the extensive bibliographies provide an excellent framework for further study. In my opinion, this textbook will be a useful reference for those interested in or pursuing a certification in hospital epidemiology and infection control, including infection control practitioners, microbiologists, infectious disease physicians and epidemiologists.

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