

MORBID OBESITY

Peri-operative Management

SECOND EDITION

EDITED BY

Adrian Alvarez

Jay B. Brodsky

Hendrikus J. M. Lemmens

and John M. Morton



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Second Edition

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Preface to the Second Edition

It has been more than 5 years since the publication of *Morbid Obesity: Peri-operative Management*. The book was timely and well received by a wide variety of medical professionals, since it was the first text to consider all aspects of the care of the morbidly obese surgical patient.

Since then obesity has continued to be a worldwide problem. The obesity epidemic has enormously impacted the health resources of countries throughout Europe, Asia, and North and South America. According to a new government report, spending on healthcare for obese American adults increased 82% between 2001 and 2006. The price tag for obesity-related problems is staggering, and includes lost productivity at work, as well as expensive medical treatments, and high costs for prescription drugs. The problems with obesity are overwhelming our health services. In California alone, the economic cost of overweight and obese adults is equivalent to 21 billion dollars annually, a figure that is more than one sixth of the state's total budget.

As predicted when the first edition was published, the number of obese surgical patients continues to grow. This is particularly true for bariatric surgery. According to the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery, in the United States more than 1.2 million patients have undergone bariatric surgery in the past decade, with more than 220 000 bariatric procedures performed just this past year.

The vast number of surgical procedures performed on obese patients since the previous edition of this book has contributed steadily to our medical knowledge. Surgical and anesthetic techniques have evolved since 2004, as have pre-, intra- and post-operative care techniques required to meet the special needs of obese patients. An updated, revised book encompassing this new knowledge is certainly indicated. Since much of the information on extreme obesity and surgery comes from extensive experience of bariatric procedures, a large part of this edition is devoted to bariatric surgery, and the lessons learned from that discipline. However,

these lessons can and should be applied to any obese patient undergoing any surgical procedure.

For this edition of *Morbid Obesity: Peri-operative Management* an expanded team of editors has joined Adrian Alvarez. This edition is more concise and contains fewer chapters than the first edition, but every chapter concerns itself specifically with the problems of obese and morbidly obese surgical patients. The organization of the book continues to follow patients from their pre-operative assessment and preparation, to their intra-operative surgical and anesthetic management, and then with their post-operative care. Every chapter is authored by experts on the subject matter of that chapter. New chapters have been added (e.g., Pathophysiology of the Pneumoperitoneum, Rhabdomyolysis) reflecting important new information not readily available or widely known in 2004 for the first edition. Other chapters have been consolidated. For example, the previous three chapters on cardiac patho-physiology and cardiac disease are now considered in one chapter, and four chapters on anesthetic agents are now summarized in a single chapter. Additional chapters on some of the very special perioperative areas for obese patients (Informed Consent, Bariatric Surgery in Adolescents) are now included or expanded.

Since obesity is a worldwide problem, this book is intended for an international audience. We believe that surgeons, anesthesiologists, internists, nutritionists, nurses, psychologists, and anyone else involved in the peri-operative management of the obese patient will find this book useful and return to it often as a resource to aid in the care of these complex, often challenging patients. The editors are grateful to the many contributors who have shared their knowledge with the readers.

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