

# Clinical Algorithms in General Surgery

A Practical Guide

Salvatore Docimo Jr.  
Eric M. Pauli  
*Editors*

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 Springer

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*To my wife, Aisa, and our son, Massimo, thank you for the unwavering support and patience. To my parents, I am forever indebted to you. To my colleagues and friends throughout the surgical world who contributed their expertise to these algorithms, thanks. I will always be grateful to those who had a part in my training and continue to offer their wisdom and insight.*

Salvatore Docimo, Jr., DO, MS

*My surgical career has been the epitome of dumb luck. I have had the good fortune to train under and with amazing surgeons, I work with dynamic colleagues, and I get to train eager students, residents, and fellows. I would like to thank all those individuals who have contributed to my success, especially those who were willing to share their expertise through these algorithms. Thanks in particular to the three Jeffs (you can rank yourselves in order), Yuri, Mike, Randy, Peter, Ann, Evan, Abraham, Lou, and Chris.*

Eric M. Pauli, MD

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## Preface

With the rapid expansion of surgical knowledge, it has never been more challenging to organize and articulate a simple and safe surgical plan. Traditional textbooks, in an attempt to keep pace with the growth of surgical science, have become encyclopedic reference books. Young surgeons, with a finite amount of time to pore over such tomes and an increasing load of clinical responsibilities, often search for educational materials that offer basic, safe principles of general surgery. For the more seasoned surgeon, a brief review of vital surgical topics does not require the comprehensive perspective offered by traditional surgical textbooks.

We created this book of surgical algorithms in order to meet the needs of both of these groups of surgeons. The goal of an algorithm is to create a set of rules, permit data processing, and establish a solution in the most efficient manner. An algorithmic approach to surgical scenarios allows for concise organization of clinical information, application of basic and safe principles, and, finally, formation of an unambiguous surgical solution. The algorithms are also accompanied with a synopsis to provide a more comprehensive review, if desired.

Students, residents, and surgeons will find the algorithms concise enough to read to completion in moments of spare time. For the surgical trainee, they should provide a foundation upon which future learning can be built. For the more senior surgeon, they will provide an up-to-date overview of commonly encountered topics from the “20,000 foot view.” For chief residents and recent graduates, we hope this book enables crystallization of their knowledge base as they prepare for the American Board of Surgery certifying examination.

Stony Brook, NY, USA  
Hershey, PA, USA

Salvatore Docimo Jr.  
Eric M. Pauli

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