

Updates in Surgery

Diego Foschi
Giuseppe Navarra *Editors*

Emergency Surgery in Obese Patients



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Updates in Surgery



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Diego Foschi • Giuseppe Navarra
Editors

Emergency Surgery in Obese Patients

Foreword by Paolo De Paolis

 Springer

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Foreword

The incidence and prevalence of obesity have increased worldwide; in particular, severe obesity is becoming an epidemic, affecting a considerable portion of the population worldwide and leading to health, social, and economic problems. This metabolic disease is associated with a shortened life expectancy, a decreased quality of life, and increased health expenditure for the national health systems.

These considerations clearly demonstrate the necessity for a monograph that takes into consideration all the problems related to emergency surgery in the obese patient; we absolutely need to develop specific appropriate protocols and to strongly promote teamwork strategies.

Therefore, with great satisfaction I introduce this important work by Diego Foschi and Giuseppe Navarra; Diego and Giuseppe, top experts in the field, engaged coworkers whose experience and scientific excellence have produced a high-quality monograph.

This volume highlights all the important aspects of emergency surgery in obese patients, providing updates on hot topics in this area and regarding new techniques, not only related to surgery but also to the perioperative and intensive care management. Considerable attention is also paid to the metabolic and surgical complications of bariatric surgery, without forgetting to discuss the subject of accreditation in emergency bariatric surgery.

The high scientific level makes this volume valuable not only for the young surgeon who wants to understand the issues of bariatric surgery but also for the experienced surgeon who considers the sharing of knowledge and protocols a fundamental aspect of the medical profession.

On behalf of the Italian Society of Surgery, I'd like to thank all the eminent authors who collaborated in producing this very useful monograph.

Turin, Italy
September 2019

Paolo De Paolis
President
Italian Society of Surgery

Preface

We would like to start this preface by thanking the Board of the Italian Society of Surgery for giving us the opportunity to present this volume on “Emergency Surgery in Obese Patients.”

In Italy, 10% of the population is obese and this percentage is expected to increase mainly in the younger age groups. Obesity carries a high risk of cardiovascular and respiratory complications and is accompanied by several comorbidities which make the obese a medically challenging patient population. This is especially true in the emergency setting when optimal treatment of obese patients relies on a multidisciplinary approach with close cooperation between many specialists. If the best care is provided, however, the prognosis of obese patients seems to be better than that of normal-weight subjects for many pathologic conditions: this is the obesity paradox. To obtain these results, a profound knowledge of the pathophysiology of morbid obesity and its consequences on different body systems is essential. Resuscitation, anesthesia, and intensive care management of the obese patient raise specific problems and need appropriate solutions. The first part of this volume examines this topic extensively with an easily understandable approach.

The second part of this volume focuses on surgical emergencies in the obese population. Prevention and treatment of the abdominal compartment syndrome, trauma, and burns are also dealt with in this part. Symptoms may be atypical, signs are poor, and the possibility of sudden deterioration of the general condition is very frequent. Patients are often old and affected by several chronic conditions. A rapid diagnosis and prompt treatment improve the results of surgery and lower the incidence of complications in several clinical conditions.

Bariatric surgery has increased dramatically in our country: in the last 5 years, it is estimated that more than 70,000 operations have taken place, 99% of which have been performed laparoscopically, mainly by four procedures: sleeve gastrectomy, Roux-en-Y gastric bypass, adjustable gastric banding, and one-anastomosis-gastric bypass. Other operations are less frequent. Each operation is characterized by specific complications, which can occur early or late after surgery. Although they can be classified as septic, hemorrhagic, and obstructive, the possibility of recognizing their causes after surgery needs a profound knowledge of bariatric surgery. Although some complications are common to all general surgery patients, others are unique to the bariatric patient and a few may follow either general or bariatric surgery but may differ in clinical presentation and management between the two patient populations.

We thank all the contributors to this part of the volume for their effort to present the very difficult aspects of the complications of bariatric surgery. These are very distinguished clinicians and researchers—fellows of the Italian Society of Surgery (SIC), Italian Association of Hospital Surgeons (ACOI), and Italian Society of Obesity Surgery and Metabolic Diseases (SICOb)—who have collaborated together to provide the reader with the in-depth knowledge of emergency surgery in the obese patients after bariatric surgery, under the auspices of the Società Italiana di Chirurgia.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge the fundamental contributions of Juliette Kleemann and Donatella Rizza at Springer and of Marco Martorelli at Scienzaperta in realizing this excellent book.

In conclusion, we hope this volume will offer general and bariatric surgeons as well as emergency medicine professionals a valid tool to help them in the decision-making processes concerning obese patients in the emergency setting.

Milan, Italy
Messina, Italy
September 2019

Diego Foschi
Giuseppe Navarra

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