

Reinhard Bittner · Ferdinand Köckerling  
Robert J. Fitzgibbons, Jr. · Karl A. LeBlanc  
Sumeet K. Mittal · Pradeep Chowbey *Editors*

# Laparo-endoscopic Hernia Surgery

Evidence Based  
Clinical Practice

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## Preface

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When asked by Dr. Bittner to join him as a coeditor of this work, I couldn't help but think "why do we need another book devoted to hernia repairs." But then he explained the unique perspective he intended as the focus of this new work. He felt there was a need for a book about hernia repair which was strictly limited to endoscopic surgery and was to incorporate guidelines endorsed by important surgical societies derived from critical analysis of appropriate literature. Certainly, traditional aspects of a surgical textbook were to be included in each chapter such as historical perspective, anatomy, incidence, operative details, perioperative care, and so on, but they are presented from an evidence-based perspective and not just the opinion of the author. I quickly came to the realization that he was right. I respectfully accepted the invitation and was honored to be asked.

Now after several years of work, the book has come to fruition. A quick perusal of

the table of contents reveals an author list which can be considered a "who's who" in the field of endoscopic hernia surgery. Each chapter is well written and a pleasure to read. I believe the original goals of applying evidence-based science to the clinical practice of endoscopic hernia surgery have been met and even superseded.

Finally, it is important for the reader to recognize that the driving force behind this work was Dr. Reinhard Bittner. From the original conception to the actual production, it was he alone who kept the work going with endless letters, emails, phone calls and face-to-face conversations with authors encouraging them to complete their assignments. We all know that, in this day and age with so many other priorities, this can be a daunting task. Congratulations to Dr. Bittner because without him this work would have never been completed. I can't thank him enough for the small part he allowed me to contribute to the project.

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# Preface

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In the era of digital media, does it still make sense to write a surgical textbook? The digital media provide the spread of the newest results of experimental and clinical research within seconds to every interested surgeon around the world. However, when using the digital media alone in order to study and to learn the well-proven standards in diagnostics, operative techniques and aftercare, especially in the new field of surgery, the laparo-endoscopic hernia repair, it is almost impossible to get the necessary information in a timely manner. On the other hand, while writing a book takes about 2–3 years, however, for the surgeon to look for the essentials in his daily work, it requires only a very short time to be fully informed. Therefore, despite currently overwhelming digitization, the printed media are still indispensable.

But, why write another book on hernia surgery as there are already many? This book is mainly devoted to laparo-endoscopic hernia surgery, but covers some particularly noteworthy features: (1) This textbook provides not only a comprehensive, state-of-the-art review of the total field of laparo-endoscopic surgery of inguinal and ventral hernia but also of hiatal hernia repair. Furthermore, recently achieved insights into the surgical anatomy of the groin and the abdominal wall, in current operative techniques and mesh technology, are described in detail. (2) The uniqueness

of this book, however, is that not only the good clinical practice is described but also the scientific background of daily routine work is quoted in terms of evidence-based medicine (Oxford classification of levels of evidence). (3) This book is written by an international group (International Endohernia Society (IEHS)) of highly experienced laparo-endoscopic surgeons from three continents inclusive of former presidents and meeting presidents of the German Hernia Society (V. Schumpelick, R. Bittner, F. Köckerling, W. Reinhold, D. Weyhe, U. Dietz, A. Koch), the European Hernia Society (V. Schumpelick, R. H. Fortelny, S. Morales-Conde), the Americas Hernia Society (R. Fitzgibbons, K. A. LeBlanc, M. Arregui, B. Ramshaw), and the Asia-Pacific Hernia Society (P. Chowbey, D. Lomanto, A. Sharma).

In summary, hernia surgery affects about 20 million patients per year worldwide. Due to this huge number of patients, the quality of performances in diagnostics and treatment has an impact not only on the individual patient but also on the cost for the health care systems of the respective countries. Therefore, it is of paramount importance to find the best treatment options. This applies in particular to this new field of surgery, the laparo-endoscopic hernia repair. This book may be an indispensable aid to any surgeon in his daily decision-making process to do the best for his patient.

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## Preface

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Every surgeon strives for excellence to deliver best clinical outcomes. Surgery is the field of science which is in the process of continuous evolution and has gained momentum in the past few decades. Today, when we sit in a time machine, grab the control gears in our hand, and accelerate on the road of the twenty-first century, the pursuit of herniology has taken a giant leap forward towards advanced surgical techniques that constitute minimal access surgery (MAS). Laparoscopic surgery has emerged as a cost-effective and patient-friendly technique for the repair of hernias.

The surgical doctrine of conventional hernia surgeries using large incisions, inconvenience of adjusting lights in the operation theaters, using magnifying loupes has revolutionized into small ports, magnified vision through laparoscopes, increased dexterity, easy access, shorter hospital stay, and faster recovery for the patients with minimal access surgeries.

Encountering the challenging situations on the operation table has increased the surgical expertise in laparoscopic hernia repairs. These academic records and literature are a medium to equip the young and upcoming surgeons to face and deal with the complex situations and to cater the needs of patients.

It gives me immense pleasure and honor to be a part of this academic venture. This book is an amalgamation of dynamic experiences and insights to laparoscopic hernia repairs. The team approach for the management of hernias with evidence-based clinical practice has been thoroughly discussed. The landmark of this published work is its comprehensive chapters which have been compiled in a precise way for each type of hernia for easy understanding and clarity. Clinical tips and surgical experience contributed by eminent herniologists across the globe are highly commendable. I would like to once again compliment the authors and the team for taking the opportunity under one platform to share their experiences and opening the new gateways for future laparoscopic surgeons.

Tracking the wheels of surgical journey from old standard approaches to modern and current approaches, the change is never ending. These changes have the potential to unfold newer understanding, newer approaches, and implementation of new prosthetic materials in the field of herniology.

I would just like to conclude that safety is never enough in the ever-evolving world. This manuscript is an attempt to increase the level of safety for the present generation of surgeons engaged in laparoscopic hernia repairs.

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