ESSENTIALS OF ABDOMINAL WALL HERNIAS
IN
MEMORY OF
THE FATHER OF INGUINAL HERNIA SURGERY

EDOARDO BASSINI
1844-1924

“It will appear excess of daring to write at the present day
of the radical treatment of hernias”
— Edoardo Bassini, 1890

“The last chapter on the history of the groin anatomy and
operative repair of hernia defects has not yet been written”
— Dr Lloyd Nyhus, decades after Edoardo Bassini

“The final word on hernia will probably never be written”
— Sir John Bruce, 1964
DISCLAIMER

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DEDICATED TO

My Parents, who taught me to be a surgeon is good, to be a good human being is better and to be a good surgeon and a good human being is the best

KUMUD, My Dear Wife,
KUNAL, My Dear Son &
All My Patients

– Dr V K Nigam

“To live a creative life, we must lose our fear of being wrong.”
– J.C. Pearce
Foreword

Those of us who know Dr Vinod Kumar Nigam are fully aware of his compulsive involvement and passion in the study of Abdominal Wall Hernias well for over a decade. Through this book his vast background and profound knowledge and understanding of this subject will be available to all surgeons interested in this subject, which in view of the overall prevalence of abdominal wall hernia, ipso facto includes every single surgeon.

Through historical background, detailed anatomy replete with explanatory line drawings, classification, clinical presentation of every variety of abdominal hernia and a lengthy discussion on operative treatment this book covers the complete gamut of hernia surgery. Dr Nigam’s meticulous study is manifest in the minutiae of details, some of which may need correction. Seventeen procedures are described for tissue repair and fourteen for hernioplasty!

The language throughout is simple, sentences are brief and the coverage is in sequential point form, making the book both readable and educative. Particularly enjoyable are the quotations at the beginning of each chapter. There are numerous treatises on abdominal wall hernia, some of them very profound. This book is not profound – it is a book for the working surgeon. Dr Nigam’s book on Essentials of Abdominal Wall Hernias will be a boon to the postgraduate student and is a credit to Indian surgical literature.

1st April 2008

Tehemton E. Udwadia
Emeritus Professor of Surgery, Grant Medical College and J.J. Hospital
Consultant Surgeon, Head, Department of M.A.S. Hinduja Hospital
Consultant Surgeon, Parsee General Hospital and Breach Candy Hospital, Mumbai
Foreword

Hernia repair is one of the most commonly performed surgical procedures by a practising surgeon today. A hernia can be present at different ages, at different and sites at varying stages. Indeed, a surgeon practising hernia repairs has to necessarily possess a wide array of surgical repertoire and techniques. It is said that there are as many hernia repairs as there are surgeons. The gold standard in hernia repairs is not on the horizon yet. The numerous hernia repairs and techniques available can be bewildering and confusing to the busy practitioners.

We are witness to an era where hernia is represented by the Asia Pacific Hernia Society (APHS), American Hernia Society (AHS) and European Hernia Society (EHS). As President of APHS, it is a matter of great pride to write a foreword for an elegant textbook Essentials of Abdominal Wall Hernias.

I am aware that Dr V K Nigam has been a keen proponent of the art of hernia repair for several years. It is heartening to note that he has followed through with his passion to produce this textbook. An overview of the textbook reveals a well thought out plan and a lucid presentation of facts and details.

In the present era of specialization, we can envisage herniologists honing their skills to set up centers of excellence. I am certain that these surgeons would benefit from the insights and experience presented in the ensuing chapters. It is my desire that practising surgeons avail themselves of several suggestions and tips that have been presented in the book.

I congratulate the authors and publisher on a fine effort, which should go a long way in addressing many contentious issues with regard to hernia repair.

Dr Pradeep Chowbey
MS, MNAMS, FIMSA, FICS, FAIS, FACS
Padmashri Awarded by The President of India
Honorary Laparoscopic Surgeon to The President of India
Honorary Laparoscopic Surgeon to Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS)
Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa)
Chairman - Minimal Access, Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Centre, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi (India)
President - Asia Pacific Hernia Society (APHS)
President - Obesity Surgery Society of India (OSSI)
Secretary General - Asia Pacific Bariatric Surgery Society (APBSS)
Foreword

It is a pleasure to write about Dr V K Nigam and his most recent endeavour Essentials of Abdominal Wall Hernias. He is a very senior surgeon of National and International repute, well known for his innovative and original “Window Operation” for hydrocele which has been widely quoted and followed internationally and “Nigam’s Reverse Curtain Hernioplasty”, testimony of his keen interest and passionate involvement in the treatment of abdominal wall hernias.

Dr Nigam’s decades of experience and knowledge about hernias are obvious in this book. The book has been written in an original and innovative style. He has made a commendable job in producing this book. Complex anatomy of the hernia has been simplified and made easy to understand by liberal use of diagrams, sketches and photographs in an exhaustive chapter. Other aspects of hernia have been comprehensively described in very well written chapters like aetiology, clinical features and contemporary management of abdominal wall hernias including the laparoscopic approach. The topic has been made so easy and interesting that even an undergraduate will find it a useful reading. On the other hand, the detailed and minute descriptions add to the knowledge of even a herniologist. The chapters on history, difficulties, important things, recent advances and arguments and controversies add extra flavor.

I congratulate Dr Nigam for producing such an excellent book and I am sure the monograph is going to be a landmark effort in the understanding and management of hernias and will be a valuable reading material for undergraduate, postgraduates students, practising surgeons and herniologists alike for years to come.

11th April 2008

Dr A.K. Kriplani
MS (Surgery)
Senior Consultant
Inderprastha Apollo Hospital, New Delhi
Laparoscopic, G. I. & Bariatric Surgeon
President, Indian Association of Gastrointestinal Endo Surgeons
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