
Tips and Tricks in Thoracic Surgery

Dakshesh Parikh • Pala B. Rajesh
Editors

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Dakshesh Parikh
Department of Pediatric Surgery
Birmingham Women's and
Children's Hospital
NHS Foundation Trust
Birmingham
United Kingdom

Pala B. Rajesh
Regional Department of Thoracic Surgery
Birmingham Heartlands Hospital
Birmingham
United Kingdom

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*Our respective families for their dedication, love, patience
and support throughout our career.*

*Our patients, colleagues and staff for their support
and trust to allow us to perform to our best in the specialty.*

Foreword

Every thoracic surgeon needs “Tips and Tricks”! You never have enough of them and any or all may come in handy someday.

The authors have run a very successful course for thoracic surgeons in Birmingham, England, for many years. This textbook in many respects is an extension of that course. That course is predominantly for trainees, but this book is for practitioners of every level. This book will become a resource for the everyday problems and the occasional unusual one. The authors have selected an outstanding group of “expert” contributors from around the world. This international group of surgeons offers unique perspectives on a variety of problems facing thoracic surgeons.

Lung failure is a challenging problem facing physicians and surgeons. There is still an important role for lung volume reduction surgery (LVRS) in carefully selected patients. LVRS is an important stand-alone procedure or as a “bridge” to transplant. Both areas are ably covered by Drs. Wood and Mulligan who have extensive experience with both.

In many parts of the world, lung infections and the management of complications pose major challenges for thoracic surgeons. In some countries, these problems are infrequent, but in other countries quite common. Drawing on the experience of surgeons who regularly deal with empyema, tuberculosis, and hydatid disease will be invaluable to all. This is true of trauma management as well.

Mediastinal tumors are uncommon for most surgeons. However, they do occur on a regular basis. Understanding the principles of management of tumors and associated conditions is valuable.

Esophageal surgery is the most challenging area of commonly practiced thoracic surgery. This book deals with benign and malignant disease. The authors are acclaimed experts. Their chapters deal with technical aspects and important management issues.

I hope the thoracic surgery community looks forward to this important text as much as I do. There is something in it for everyone: trainee or practicing surgeon. ENJOY!

Boston, MA, USA

Douglas J. Mathisen

Preface

A number of textbooks and atlases of adult and Pediatric thoracic surgery have been published. These are either textbooks for reference or descriptive atlases of operative techniques. Information relating to surgical results and outcomes is scattered in the literature. Outcomes and complications in thoracic surgery are dependent on the competence of the surgeon and the team. Surgical practice and operative technique are transferred by competence-based training to the new generation of surgeons. These surgeons require mentoring and support in their initial years of independent practice. This is especially true for those carrying out occasional procedures or as a sub-specialty interest in Pediatrics. The experts have acquired these skills by experience over the years, the knowledge gained is key to the outcome and reduction in the complications associated with the surgery. We believe that this book will be a useful resource to the trainee and the newly appointed thoracic surgeon.

This book includes 37 chapters that are aimed at the higher surgical trainees and serve as a useful adjunct to all newly appointed adult and Pediatric thoracic surgeons. We believe the expert contributors have discussed pathology in their chapters that may be useful to senior consultants undertaking surgery outside their comfort zone. Thoracic surgery is a high-risk specialty and requires attention to detail. Tips and tricks from experienced surgeons will contribute to improving outcomes and reduce complications.

In spite of our objective to allow contributors freedom to share their experience, tips and tricks of their surgical practice, we made every effort to achieve a uniform style. The authors were carefully chosen for their recognized expertise from around the world. The effort involved in making this textbook a reality has been exhausting and exhilarating. We sincerely hope the final result does justice to the original aim.

We would like to express our gratitude for the time and expertise provided by all the contributing authors. We express our sincere thanks to Melissa Morton, Senior Editor, at Springer and her editorial assistants and project managers especially Andre Tournois, Suganya Selvaraj and Georgette who have encouraged and helped us throughout this project.

Birmingham, UK
Birmingham, UK

Dakshesh Parikh
Pala B. Rajesh

Contents

Part I Lung

- 1 Congenital Lung Malformations** 3
Jörg Fuchs
- 2 Lung Volume Reduction Surgery for Severe Emphysema** 17
Douglas E. Wood
- 3 Primary Tumours** 37
Lawrence Okiror, Maninder Singh Kalkat, and Pala B. Rajesh
- 4 Pulmonary Metastases** 53
Cheng He, Cliff K.C. Choong, and Paul E. Van Schil
- 5 Lung Transplantation** 65
Mike Mulligan

Part II Infections

- 6 Empyema Thoracis** 75
Dakshesh Parikh
- 7 Bronchiectasis** 87
Rajan Santhosham
- 8 Fungal Infections: Current Role of Thoracic Surgeons in Cases
of Pulmonary Aspergillosis.** 95
Masaaki Sato and Hiroshi Date
- 9 Surgical Management in Pulmonary Tuberculosis** 109
Rajan Santosham
- 10 Lung Abscess** 125
Dragan Subotic
- 11 Hydatid Disease** 145
Mustafa Yuksel and Nezih Onur Ermerak

Part III Trauma

- 12 Blunt Thoracic Trauma** 155
Edward J. Caruana and Sridhar Rathinam
- 13 Penetrating Injuries** 175
Eshan L. Senanayake and Timothy R. Graham

Part IV Thoracic Wall

- 14 Chest Wall Tumours** 187
Maninder Singh Kalkat
- 15 Pleural Pathologies and Malignant Effusion** 199
Gregor J. Kocher and Ralph A. Schmid
- 16 Thoracic Outlet Syndrome** 215
Mark X. Gannon
- 17 Pectus Excavatum** 225
Babu Naidu
- 18 Sternal Cleft** 241
Dakshesh Parikh

Part V Mediastinum

- 19 Anterior Mediastinal Tumours** 251
Mohammed Abdel Aziz and Pala B. Rajesh
- 20 Thymic Pathology and Myasthenia Gravis** 261
Calvin S.H. Ng and Anthony P.C. Yim
- 21 Posterior Mediastinal Tumors** 281
Keith S. Naunheim and Melanie A. Edwards

Part VI Tracheo-Broncheal Tree

- 22 Bronchoscopy: Rigid and Flexible** 297
Sridhar Rathinam
- 23 Acquired Tracheal Stenosis** 313
Douglas E. Wood

Part VII Oesophagus

- 24 Congenital Oesophageal Atresia and Tracheo-oesophageal Fistula** 335
Rajay Rampersad and Dakshesh Parikh

25	Long-Gap Oesophageal Atresia	349
	David C. van der Zee	
26	Foregut Duplication Cysts	361
	Michael Singh	
27	Oesophageal Tumours: Benign and Malignant	367
	S. Michael Griffin, Barry Dent, and Shajahan Wahed	
28	Oesophageal Strictures	381
	David C. van der Zee	
29	Oesophageal Replacement by Gastric Transposition	389
	Emma L. Sidebotham and David C.G. Crabbe	
30	Oesophageal Replacement: Jejunal Interposition	403
	Janet McNally and Eleri L. Cusick	
31	Achalasia of the Cardia	415
	Oscar Crespín and Carlos A. Pellegrini	
32	Anti-Reflux Surgery	431
	Simon Paterson-Brown, Graeme W. Couper, and Peter J. Lamb	
Part VIII Diaphragm		
33	Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia	445
	Ingo Jester	
34	Diaphragmatic Eventration	455
	Dakshesh Parikh	
Part IX Miscellaneous		
35	Spontaneous Pneumothorax	463
	Maninder Singh Kalkat	
36	Hyperhidrosis	475
	Peter B. Licht	
37	Chylothorax	485
	Dakshesh Parikh	
	Index	493