Preface

Acute care surgery is a rapidly evolving specialty that encompasses emergency general surgery, care of the injured patient, and surgical critical care. There is a growing demand for access to emergency surgical services. Unfortunately, this increased demand for emergency surgeons has been accompanied by a declining number of surgeons willing to take emergency general surgery calls. The field of acute care surgery has developed in response to this need for reliable access to emergency surgical care.

The care of the emergency surgical patient presents a complex set of challenges for surgeons. Not only must the surgeon possess the skills needed to perform an emergent operation, but also they must often do so in the setting of a physiologically deranged patient. In order to deliver optimal care, the acute care surgeon must have expertise in both surgery and critical care. They must be familiar with the current diagnostic modalities, resuscitation strategies, operative techniques, and management principles required to deliver rapid, evidence-based care for these challenging patients.

*Common Problems in Acute Care Surgery* addresses the common surgical emergencies encountered by acute care surgeons. The purpose of this text is to provide both trainees and practicing surgeons a comprehensive, evidence-based review of the most common clinical problems encountered by acute care surgeons. The book is organized into three main parts: The first part is focused on general principles of acute care surgery including initial evaluation and resuscitation, perioperative management of the hemodynamically unstable patient, and common critical care issues encountered in the management of these patients. The second part is focused on specific disease states that are commonly encountered by acute care surgeons. Each chapter in this part addresses a specific clinical problem by describing the epidemiology, clinical presentation, diagnosis, management (including pertinent operative techniques), potential complications, and follow-up. Each of the chapters in this second part also includes an algorithm for management of the disease state being discussed. The third and final part focuses on ethics and legal issues frequently encountered in acute care surgery.

Each of the authors in this text was selected for their expertise in the field of acute care surgery. We are grateful to the many surgeons who devoted countless hours in the preparation of this text. The end result is a practical resource to assist acute care surgeons in delivering compassionate, evidence-based care to the emergency surgical patient.

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