Preface

Disruptive technologies have resulted in quantum advances in surgical procedures. The efforts of such innovation yield better outcomes for our patients and, fundamentally, are at the core of surgical innovation. The introduction of laparoscopy to general surgery in the 1990s and the ensuing “minimally invasive” revolution have ushered in a new era of faster recovery, less pain, and fewer peri-operative complications. Initially with cholecystectomy, and eventually throughout the diverse procedures that comprise general surgery, minimally invasive techniques continue to be taught, remodeled, and refined.

The introduction of robotic assisted surgery has continued this progress. Robotics in the realm of general surgery is a relatively new application, but it is rapidly expanding. Advanced robotic technologies allow surgeons and their patients access to procedures performed with high definition, 3-dimensional visualization of structures, precise and ergonomic movements with increased degrees of freedom, and the possibility to re-create open surgery in a less invasive way.

This text is unique in that it represents the application of this advanced technology to the major disease processes of general surgery. Written by recognized leaders in their fields, each chapter examines specific applications of robotic surgery in a sub-specialty of general surgery. Each author examines the technical aspects of the respective robotic procedures and also reviews the current applications and outcomes for these techniques. The editors are grateful for the participation of these expert surgeons in this effort, and we understand that through luminaries such as these the advancement of the practice of surgery continues.

We hope that you enjoy this comprehensive resource for some of the most cutting-edge procedures in general surgery.

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