Preface

This book is written for physicians who care for children: pediatricians, general practitioners, pediatric surgeons, general surgeons, and specialists whose activity includes also children. This book has been put together based on many years of personal experience, serves as source of specific informations about pediatric surgery for people who need them occasionally or day-to-day, and represents basic and comprehensive knowledge for pediatric surgeons in training and afterward.

The central target of this book concerns the clinical significance and presentation, differential diagnostic delineation, and indication for specific treatment of most disorders of pediatric surgery and of some in related fields. This book intends to lead the reader and specifically the pediatric surgeon of developed and developing countries to a total care of the confided child even if she/he or another physician cannot or will not take over surgery in each field.

The reader wonders how this book should or can be used: (1) If the reader wants a specific information about a known disorder, the index or table of contents leads her or him to the desired chapter and by stereotypically arranged headlines “occurrence, clinical significance or presentation, work-ups or differential diagnosis, and treatment or prognosis” to the specific informations of the chosen disorder; (2) If the reader starts from a characteristic leading symptom or sign without precise knowledge of the most probable disorder, she or he chooses first the involved body area (they are arranged in the following order “head, neck, chest, abdomen, urogenital system, and back”) and finds there the most suitable leading symptom or sign of which totally 35 are available and correspond each to a main chapter. The reader finds at the beginning of each chosen main chapter an introduction to the assessment of the leading symptom or sign and to correlate it with specific disorders of the differential diagnosis; (3) Although the diagrams of this book display essential clinical, radiological, and operative characteristics of some disorders in an abstracted manner, the reader wants realistic pictures; therefore, she or he is referred to the e-learning box at the end of each main chapter that allows her or him to choose from a relatively large number of clinical, radiological, and intraoperative findings the wanted disorder by Internet without any additional expenses; (4) Although the often large list of references is not complete, some case reports enable the reader to participate in the clinical everyday work, some more detailed papers to complete the knowledge in some specific fields, and other publications to perform her or his own literature research; (5) Treatment and prognosis in general and those in specific
fields change continually. In the last two decades, minimally invasive surgery has increasingly entered many fields of pediatric surgery. The description of some common open interventions does not deal with technical aspects of minimally invasive surgery although it is basic to it. But its significance, indications and contraindications, and advantages or drawbacks are mentioned in some disorders under the headline “indication for surgery” or in some references. It is possible that the next decades lead to a balance between disorder in which minimally invasive surgery is superior to open surgery and those in which open surgery is still the golden standard if minimally invasive surgery is not only performed because it can be technically done (“l’art pour l’art”) but also global aspects of pediatric surgical training, restricted resources, and wear of materials are considered.


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