More than 30 years have passed since the inauguration of laparoscopic surgery. Since, this technique has evolved as a less traumatic option for a fistful of un-complex interventions. Over the past decades laparoscopic surgery has left its niche existence and has become a central tool in gastrointestinal surgery and even in oncologic surgery. Nowadays it is routinely applied in almost the entire field of gastrointestinal surgery and is continuously replacing open surgery to minimize the abdominal wall trauma of the patients, thereby reducing hospital stay.

With the present book *Notes on Laparoscopic Gastrointestinal Surgery, 2nd Edition* some highly experienced surgeons share their experience and knowledge in laparoscopic tumor surgery with a strong emphasis on gastric and colorectal surgery and comment in detail upon specific problems and technical recommendations on these topics. Herein, the book perfectly pics up the current spirit in surgery and with certainty represents only a first starter in the rapidly widening field of oncologic laparoscopic surgery. It has to be assumed, that with the increasing application of robotic surgery and the advent of other supportive technologies, e.g. image guided surgery in combination with multimodal tumor therapy, laparoscopic surgery will also conquer other fields in oncologic surgery, that at present still are a main domain of conventional surgery. In this context, hepatobiliary and esophageal surgery are perfect candidates, and it could already be shown, that laparoscopic surgery is amenable for these applications as well and with remarkable results.

Thus, one can expect *Notes on Laparoscopic Gastrointestinal Surgery, 2nd Edition* to be continuously extended and complemented in other fields of oncologic surgery, which could only be touched in this current issue.

We warmly recommend this excellent book to any gastrointestinal surgeon who is interested in offering modern therapy to his patient and who is open minded to new techniques and the advancement of surgery. Once unmated oncologic surgery at current has to compete with other upcoming treatment options, such as interventional radiology, biologicals and specific therapies that, although being less responsive to date, depict some attractiveness to patients as they are less invasive and painful. To maintain is importance, surgery is well-advised to adapt to this development, however without losing its superiority, radicalness and effectiveness. Laparoscopic surgery to date is the best tool we have to compete with these developments and therefore should be liberally applied when indicated.

It is my strongest wish to encourage every surgeon to further evolve our surgical armamentarium with new and gentle modalities and to advance surgery to the next level. However, we should never abandon to critically assess any new technique and its application in the treatment of our patients as cure and longtime survival in combination with a high life quality represent the highest goals in oncologic surgery. Accordingly, the topics of this book were chosen wisely and focus on the fields only, where laparoscopic surgery has been proven to be at least equally effective as conventional surgery.

We would like to congratulate the publisher and all authors, who have composed an excellent and elaborated scientific work on laparoscopic gastrointestinal oncologic surgery and who by this have contributed to the welfare of our patients.

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