

It gives me a great pleasure to write an introduction to this book which bridges the gap between surgeons and endoscopists across the world and the surgical innovators, and it provides a foundation for all classic, newer and emerging techniques in minimally invasive colorectal surgery.

Colorectal surgery has shown substantial changes during the last several decades after the introduction of minimally invasive surgery. Challenges about early minimally invasive surgery in colorectal surgery are recognized and newer techniques and robotic devices have been developed to overcome some of the drawbacks of early laparoscopic surgery. Further improvements with technology improvements and flexible scopes that ease the operations are introduced which are all discussed in this book.

Colorectal surgery has been benefiting the ample opportunities that robotic system offer, yet, unavailability of the platform in every medical center, prolonged operative time, cost and the steep learning curve pose obstacles for the globalization of the robotics. Debates keep climbing toward whether the purported advantages of the robotic systems will actually translate into clinical effectiveness over conventional laparoscopy. This book discusses the current role of laparoscopic surgery as well as alternative robotic approaches in colorectal surgery settings and future directions of the robotic surgery. It provides tips and tricks that allow the user to move up the learning curve, overcome challenges, increase the utilization of minimal invasive techniques even for the management of metastatic colorectal diseases.

Lastly, this book addresses emerging approaches such as advanced endoscopic procedures in the management of difficult colorectal lesions as well as EndoLuminal Surgery which will be a huge leap forward in the near future. Thus this book is also an inspirational guide for the innovator of the future since many cutting edge and newer techniques are discussed. It allows surgeons to better adapt to inevitable changes in future operative techniques.

Written by experts in the field of open, laparoscopic, robotic colorectal surgery, and endoluminal surgery, *Minimally Invasive Approach to Colorectal Diseases* is a valuable resource for general and colorectal surgeons of all levels including residents, fellows and surgeons already in practice.



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