

The last decade has witnessed two important secular developments in thoracic surgery. The first is the inexorable tilt in surgical approach in favor of minimally invasive approaches. The second is the globalization of thoracic surgical expertise, especially with respect to the evolution of surgical technique. This impressive compendium of important review articles, editorials and monographs are reflective of these secular trends.

Minimally invasive thoracic surgery has held up its promise of improving peri-operative outcomes without compromise of long-term oncological outcomes. While the evolution of surgical technique is rapidly progressing from “traditional” VATS to several new approaches, much of the improvement in outcomes can also be attributed to novel approaches to peri-operative care and modification of existing post-operative pathways that have evolved in unison with technique. This book summarizes the current issues up for debate in optimization of peri-operative outcomes. The topics discussed in the pre-operative optimization and prognostic factors are also indicative of the fact that surgical approach has limitations in its ability to decrease complications, once the transition from open surgery to some sort of minimally invasive surgery is adopted. With increasingly older patients presenting to the surgeon, and non-operative treatment modalities gaining viability as alternatives, risk stratification schema and more complex decision making become increasingly important. In this context, the exploration and validation of new variables for peri-operative prognostication, several of which are discussed here, is of great importance.

The book is logically arranged in several sections, starting with pre-operative factors impacting outcomes, followed by intraoperative events and decision making and ending with post-operative care pathways. Emphasis is placed on discussion of novel issues that have been discussed and debated in thoracic surgical meetings worldwide. A distinct feature of the book is the truly international nature of the authorship, reflective of global practices and evolutionary trends. It is remarkable how, despite different healthcare delivery systems that exist in different parts of the world, factors governing outcomes share common themes and limitations.

It is an honor and privilege to provide a preface to this book, which reflect a great effort by expert colleagues from all over the world as well as the AME publishing team. I trust that you will enjoy reading these articles as much as I did!



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