

Preface to the first edition

This atlas has been designed for the purpose of providing a detailed overview of the major procedures performed by gynecologic oncologists, using full color photographs, and is accompanied by a DVD of live surgical footage with spoken commentary. Creating the basis of this text exclusively from color images of actual surgical procedures offers the reader a vantage point similar to that seen by the operating surgeon. Owing to the sophisticated computer technology that is currently on hand, all the photographs were captured on digital film and digital videotape. We have made great effort, except where absolutely necessary, to preclude the use of sketches or black-and-white photographs throughout *Atlas of Procedures in Gynecologic Oncology*.

This book should be valuable for those beginning their surgical training, as well as for senior practitioners. For the medical student and house officer, it will provide an introduction to basic gynecologic oncology procedures such as surgical staging, vulvar surgery, radical hysterectomy, and others. There are also sections on paracentesis, chest tube placement and central venous access. For the fellow in training, procedures, such as laparoscopic lymph node dissection, intraoperative radiation therapy, inguino-femoral lymphadenectomy, and others, will be indispensable when acting as the first assistant. For the senior surgeon, the text will introduce new technologies and advanced minimally invasive procedures that are not part of the usual surgical armamentarium. Procedures such as laparoscopic radical hysterectomy, sentinel lymph node biopsy, radical vaginal trachelectomy, and others are not typically taught during normal subspecialty training. All these procedures are illustrated in such detail that any surgeon can appreciate the adaptation of currently practiced surgical procedures to the minimally invasive approach, which may be readily learned from selected specialists in the field.

The chapters in *Atlas of Procedures in Gynecologic Oncology* are purposely presented in great detail, giving the reader a complete working knowledge of

each procedure. While we would be amiss in believing that one could actually perform a new procedure simply by reviewing this text, with proper instruction the procedure should be readily grasped. Expertise in a particular procedure can be acquired more quickly on account of having a detailed knowledge of the procedure prior to performing it or observing it for the very first time. When one studies procedures in gynecologic oncology without the benefit of detailed operative color photographs, it can be quite surprising to see how different a real surgical procedure is from that depicted in sketches and diagrams; through the use of actual color photographs, the representations within this *Atlas* should approximate what is actually seen in the operating room.

Over one hour of actual surgical footage is included on an accompanying DVD with spoken commentary. The reader is able to review a procedure with full color photographs and then view selected procedures on video. The combination of photographs, written text, surgical footage, and spoken commentary is one of the most realistic approaches to understanding a complex surgical procedure without actually scrubbing into the case. Indeed, in some respects the material contained within may serve better to illustrate the procedures than actually being in the operating room as an observer: here, the reader will see the major portions of procedures without the surgical staff or the surgical drapes obstructing the view.

We have attempted to present all major procedures in our specialty. Some of the less frequently performed procedures are not illustrated owing to the lack of material or space within the text. Subsequent editions of this *Atlas* will replace some operations with new procedures and will expand as our specialty expands. Hopefully, we will have the opinions of our readers to allow each edition to be a better reference work than the preceding one. In addition to the commonly performed major procedures, we have also illustrated many advanced procedures currently performed only at specialized centers throughout the world. These procedures are likely to be practiced on a more

widespread basis as physicians become sufficiently trained in minimally invasive surgery. We have tried to highlight important technical points for each step of the procedures in order to steer the reader away from potential complications.

The text here is limited to procedural descriptions and succinct introductory paragraphs explaining general indications without a comprehensive review of the literature. A discourse on the management of

gynecologic malignancies is certainly readily available in many other well-written texts. This text is strictly focused on procedures, as will become apparent to the reader. We have attempted to design a high-quality, comprehensive *Atlas* and hope that the reader appreciates its distinctiveness and merit.

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Preface to the second edition

In this second edition of *Atlas of Procedures in Gynecologic Oncology* we have expanded the subject area but tried to maintain the general design of providing a detailed overview of the major procedures performed by gynecologic oncologists using full color photographs. It has been said that ‘good judgment comes from bad judgment.’ We hope that by offering a photographic vantage point similar to that seen by the operating surgeon we can minimize the amount of trial and error required to obtain expertise in the operating theater. In this second edition we have updated or replaced over 30% of the material from the first edition. In this second edition as well, we welcome Nadeem R Abu-Rustum as a co-author, who has contributed greatly to the completion of the current work.

This book remains valuable for those beginning their surgical training, as well as for senior practitioners. For the medical student and house officer, it is an introduction to basic gynecologic oncology procedures, such as surgical staging, vulvar surgery, radical hysterectomy, and others. There are also sections on paracentesis, chest tube placement, and central venous access. For the fellow in training, procedures such as laparoscopic lymph node dissection, intraoperative radiation therapy, inguinofemoral lymphadenectomy, and myocutaneous flap reconstruction will be indispensable when acting as the first assistant. For the senior surgeon, the text will introduce new technologies and advanced minimally invasive procedures that are not part of the usual surgical armamentarium. In this edition we have added an extensive chapter on robotics in gynecologic oncology.

We have attempted to present all major procedures in our specialty. In this second edition we have added new procedures and expanded on some of the previously published work. We have a dedicated chapter on retroperitoneal lymph node dissection and a new chapter on panniculectomy to facilitate pelvic surgery. There is additional material on fertility-sparing

surgery and radical pelvic surgery. We have added short chapters illustrating unique procedures such as hand-assisted laparoscopic splenectomy and a general chapter on urologic procedures. In addition to the commonly performed major procedures, we have also illustrated many advanced procedures currently performed only at specialized centers throughout the world. These procedures are likely to become practiced on a more widespread basis as physicians become sufficiently trained in minimally invasive and fertility-sparing surgery.

We value the opinions of our readers and have received tremendously positive feedback on our first edition. As this second edition goes to press, we hope to maintain a dialogue with our readers through written and electronic correspondence. We continue to welcome both complimentary and critical responses to the second edition. We will be providing an electronic comment card on the *Atlas*’ dedicate website: www.gynatlas.org. Please visit this site to contact the authors or provide commentary.

This surgical guide offers a complete procedure-oriented manual in gynecologic oncology with full color photographs. We have taken every effort to eliminate the use of line drawings and sketches that only detract from a realistic presentation of actual surgery. The text is limited to procedural descriptions and introductory paragraphs explaining general indications without a comprehensive review of the literature. A discourse on the management of gynecologic malignancies is certainly readily available in many other well-written texts. This text is strictly focused on procedures, as will become apparent to the reader. We have attempted to design a high-quality, comprehensive atlas and hope that the reader appreciates its distinctiveness and merit.

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