

Atlas of Procedures in Gynecologic Oncology: Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center

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This atlas is a wonderful combination of visual and descriptive approaches to the surgical management of gynecologic tumors. The editors are well known skillful and experienced authorities in gynecologic oncology. The contributors have wide varieties of oncology background and experience. The book itself is very attractive with a gray hard bond cover and high quality glossy paper. The illustrations are profuse and high quality, and overall size is appropriate.

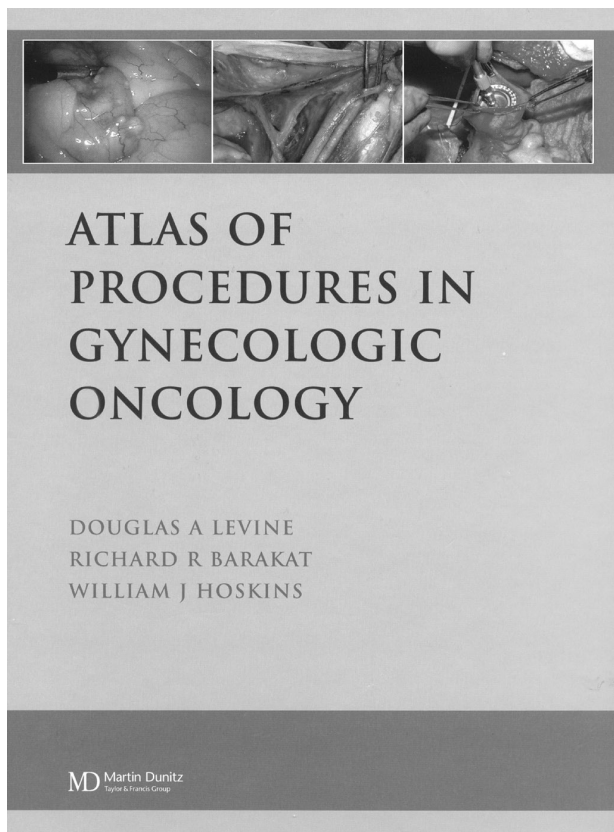
Most of the important surgical gynecologic and related necessary surgical procedures are being covered. The major topic issues are divided into four sections as open surgical procedures, laparo-

scopic procedures, the vulvar/vaginal procedures and ancillary procedures. Most of the illustrations are sharp and clearly demonstrate the surgical techniques in a step-by-step format. In some cases, it might have been more informative if diagrammatic drawings of some deep anatomical location accompanied the photos, especially in the deeply located viscera or vascular structures in proximity or bloody operative fields which are sometimes difficult to illustrate photographically. This would better orient the reader to the caudad-cephalad and medial-lateral directions. A small drawback is the size of the identifying arrows which are small and black in color and are occasionally difficult to localize. The descriptive information is also very helpful with useful tips and cautionary notes regarding surgical techniques.

Standard operative procedures including the surgical cytoreduction, radical abdominal hysterectomy, pelvic exenteration and several laparoscopic procedures are well described and demonstrated with the remarkably good photographs. The less commonly performed procedures of extraperitoneal lymph node dissection and the sentinel node mapping are also well done. A most informative chapter is the vaginal radical trachelectomy for fertility conservation in woman with early cervical cancer. In this chapter, the photographs are well and clearly demonstrated the steps. The descriptive procedures and the update reports information are very useful.

The inclusion of other procedures such as paracentesis, placement of PEG, chest tube, central venous catheter, and mediport placement are a nice addition and certainly add to the book's usefulness. Brachytherapy chapter is also splendid, and give extended knowledge to the gynecologic practitioners.

The complementary DVD disc is a superb addendum to the book. The video covers four chapters of laparoscopic surgery as: laparoscopic procedures of surgical staging, radical hysterectomy, extraperitoneal lymph node dissection, and second-look with intraperitoneal catheter placement. These videos capture



in motion greatly enhance understanding of the steps of the procedure. The indications, instruments, surgical steps are succinctly listed in outline form to give the general points of view to the readers. The narrators describe the process along with the video well with the surgical technics, some anatomical landmarks and precautions. Captions might have been added to outline the anatomy including all retroperitoneal spaces.

In conclusion, this book is well done. Aside from the residents and fellows in training who will learn the basic gynecologic oncology procedures such as surgical staging, vulvar surgery, radical hysterectomy

and laparoscopic surgery from this book, even the practicing gynecologic oncologist will surely have benefit from various suggestions regarding the new technologies procedures such as sentinel lymph node mapping as well.

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