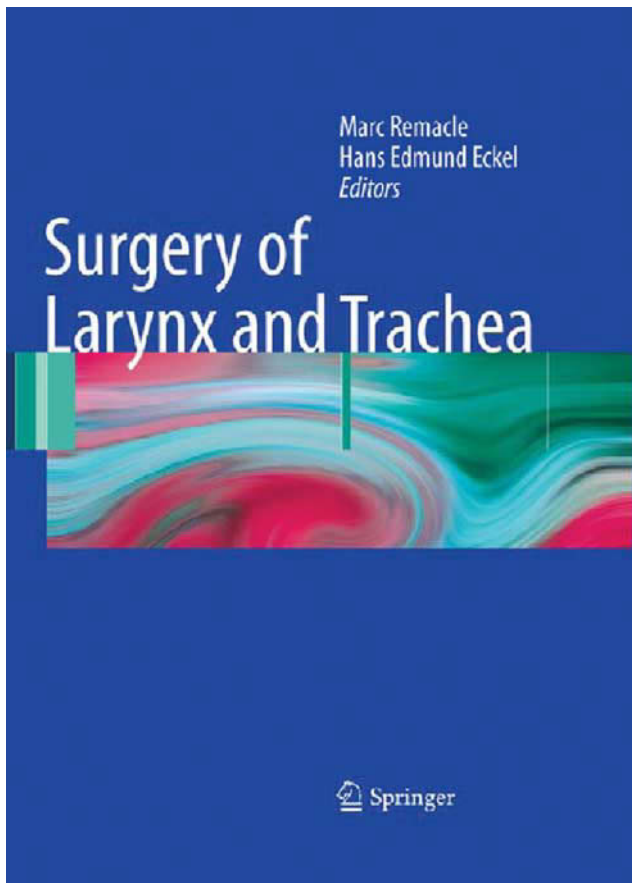


Book review

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Surgery of larynx and trachea: part 1
Marc Remacle, Hans Edmund Eckel (editors).
Berlin Heidelberg: Springer-Verlag, 1st edn, 2010.
ISBN: 978-3-540-79135-5; 308 pages; \$161.02.



Despite its name, this is not a textbook on surgical techniques. Rather, it provides insights on the principles and fundamentals for different surgeries in the larynx and the trachea. The book chapters are presented according to the pathology (surgery of malignant and benign tumors), the techniques (laser surgery), the age group (surgery in pediatric population), or the topography (framework surgery).

This 25-chapter textbook was prepared under the editorship of Professor Marc Remacle and Professor Hans Eckel. The editors and their 28 coauthors are among the leading laryngologists in Europe. Each chapter has its own reference list.

A strong point in the whole book is the ‘core messages’ at the beginning of each chapter, although these are sometimes too short to give an idea about the chapter. In Chapters 4 and 5, there are tips and pearls rather than core messages.

Chapter 1 correlates phoniatrics to anatomy: ‘This mode of function of the vocal cords corresponds to what some singing teachers refer to as a “free-floating voice” and to pathology: ‘However, glottal efficiency decreases, and a large amount of energy is dissipated at the vocal fold level in the form of friction, which can cause local inflammation and even fold lesions’ with some reference to opera singing: ‘Some Soprano can lower pitch by dropping the jaw’.

Chapter 2, entitled assessment of voice and respiratory functions, is relatively tedious to read for surgeons. The advantage is that it ends with guidelines for the assessment of voice pathology.

In Chapter 3, Eckel and Remacle note that ‘If doubt exists as to the nature of a given lesion, it may be prudent to leave some of the pathology behind and resect it at a later time if it better preserves the functional integrity of the larynx’. This chapter provides a good insight into the basic knowledge of lasers and laser surgery. The authors are very conservative in the text, indicating at every occasion that lasers are convenient for the treatment of ‘benign’ lesions of the larynx and the trachea. However, they are fierce in defending the unsubstitutable role of laser in laryngeal surgery.

Chapter 4 includes many tables and introduces phonosurgery as a full subspecialty. This is emphasized more in Chapter 5, written by Friedrich, on laryngeal framework surgery. However, differentiation of laryngology from head and neck surgery has been criticized elsewhere in the same book.

In Chapter 4a, Remacle underlined that with surgery on the vocal cord, the primary aim is to preserve the underlying vocal ligament. This chapter provides very important tips on laser parameters in phonosurgery.

Chapter 5 provides a description of the technique of different types of thyroplasties and Chapter 6 provides an insight into laryngeal surgery in the pediatric population.

The lengthy Chapter 7, written by Grant, Birchall, and Bradely on benign tumors of the larynx, emphasizes that the delicate balance between surgery and preservation of organ function is highly illustrated within the larynx. The authors state that the definition of noncancerous or benign tumors of the larynx requires some elaboration. They stress that the vocal fold nodules, laryngeal polyps, cysts, and nonspecific granulomas are mucosal reactive inflammatory disorders and therefore non-neoplastic in nature. They present a good account of the therapeutic modalities and the natural history of recurrent respiratory papillomatosis in its adult and juvenile versions. A brief summary of the different histopathological types of benign tumors, their risks, and management is also presented. They indicate that histological examination is mandatory

before the diagnosis of any malignant tumor, especially in the supraglottis. Certain benign lesions (e.g. necrotizing sialometaplasia, granular cell tumor) may have the gross picture of a malignant tumor.

Chapter 8 provides important details on the mechanics of laryngeal injury by blunt trauma, its emergency, and remote management.

The differentiation in Chapters 9 and 10 between glottic airway stenosis and subglottic stenosis is one of the strong points of this textbook.

In Chapter 9, Eckel and Lichtenberger present definite indications for glottis expansion surgery in the case of

bilateral vocal cord paralysis. They underline the principles, advantages, and disadvantages of each glottis expansion procedure.

Chapter 10, written by Philippe Monnier, is very didactic in the classification of subglottic and tracheal stenosis into pediatric and adult types. It details the indications and some contraindications of different surgical procedures in dealing with the mentioned lesions before discussing the surgical techniques.

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