
Section XIV

Special Topics

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It gives me great pleasure to provide an overview on this well written and enlightening section of *Special Topics*; these chapters deliver a fascinating insight to professionals of all disciplines interested in the management of the morbidly obese patient. The simple diagrams and photographs add to the value of each chapter.

Even though bariatric surgery is undertaken in a few selected centers, patients present as emergency admissions to all hospitals and A&E units. Different specialties and professionals will find the chapter on management of bariatric emergencies very helpful; it provides a systematic and concise approach to detection, investigation, and initial management of potential complications of different bariatric operations, placing great emphasis on establishing timely contact with specialist units. Sharing of agreed management protocols following surgery among the wider professional groups has been adequately emphasized.

Multi-disciplinary care is key to successful outcomes in bariatric surgery; the chapter on the role of radiology and the specialist radiologist makes very easy reading. Interpretation of normal and abnormal anatomy and the relevance of different tests (including their application in complex situations) are well described. Simple and easy-to-understand radiological images are well presented.

Obesity and particularly bariatric surgery in adolescents is a very emotive and sensitive issue. The authors have articulated the varied effects on different body systems while making a clear case for surgery in the right patient based on clear guidelines. They also stress the importance of thorough medical examination, multi-disciplinary discussion, effects of different types of surgery, long term follow up after surgery, and monitoring nutritional parameters. This chapter will be particularly relevant to pediatric specialists and the endocrinologist with an interest in childhood obesity.

The success of bariatric surgery, including the positive physical and psychological impact, is now well established. People embark on a new life and body contouring surgery has become more relevant and widely available. This chapter provides fantastic literature review and clearly articulates the wide choice of procedures available. Also included are discussion of complications and funding streams.

The natural history of non-alcoholic liver disease, role of liver biopsy in bariatric surgery, and the impact of bariatric surgery on liver histology and function is clearly described in the chapter that follows. This is very enlightening reading, not only for the surgeon but for all of us interested in the concept of metabolic syndrome and the positive impact of surgery on reversing many of these changes. The authors make an important point about the relative paucity of appreciating liver problems prior to surgery which could have an impact on postoperative outcomes.

The final chapter on the role of primary care nicely puts into context the role of general practitioners in supporting bariatric surgery including referral, education, supporting perioperative care, and—most importantly—ensuring optimal long term nutritional follow-up. Integrated care in the community including diet, exercise, drugs, and education is well described. The close relationship with specialist units in terms of sharing protocols and timely communication is also emphasized.