

Daniel J. Ledbetter
Paul R.V. Johnson
Editors

Endocrine Surgery in Children

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To Sunny, Kelly, and Brian—the greatest joys of my life.

Daniel J. Ledbetter

*To Hilary, Thomas, and Tilly—for your unconditional love,
support, and patience during the preparation of this book.*

Paul R.V. Johnson

Foreword

Endocrine conditions requiring surgery in children are extremely rare. Surgeons undertaking this surgery need to be specifically trained and exposed to a large volume of cases in order to maintain their expertise. Therefore, it is clear that the surgery needs to be concentrated in designated regional centers and carried out by a select number of pediatric surgeons. In addition, a close working relationship with the pediatric endocrinologists is essential for the overall well-being of the child.

While management of many of these conditions must remain within the armamentarium of the pediatric surgeon, for example neuroblastoma, hyperinsulinism, adrenal tumors, and gonadal conditions, there is a tendency to engage adult endocrine surgeons with specific expertise in a particular organ, such as thyroid, parathyroid, pituitary, to perform the procedures in conjunction with the pediatric surgeons. In the latter situation, it is important that the overall care of the child should remain firmly in the province of the pediatric specialist.

This book devoted to the surgery of endocrine disorders in children fills a major gap in the pediatric surgical literature and brings together the full range of endocrine conditions encountered in the pediatric age range. The last publication devoted to the surgery of endocrine disorders in children was part of the Progress in Pediatric Surgery series (now discontinued) published in 1991.

This publication includes contributions from international authorities in pediatric surgery and endocrinology, mainly from the United Kingdom and North America and should be viewed as the standard text for many years to come.

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Preface

Endocrine surgical conditions during childhood are relatively rare. However, they represent an interesting and challenging group of conditions that all pediatric surgeons will encounter sometime during their careers. This book is one of the first to provide a specific overview of the range of different endocrine surgical conditions encountered in children, together with their management. It is aimed at any surgeon operating on endocrine conditions in children and adolescents.

The book is divided into sections based on the different endocrine organs. Each section begins with a chapter outlining the embryology, anatomy, and physiology of that organ, before subsequent chapters address the different surgical conditions that occur, together with their diagnosis, management, and outcomes. Basic science and state-of-the-art research perspectives are included as they relate to surgical decision-making and optimal clinical care. We have intentionally chosen a diverse group of authors who have experience and expertise in caring for children with endocrine surgical conditions in North America and the UK. The authors include endocrinologists, adult endocrine surgeons, and pediatric surgeons, and represent many who are at the forefront of both clinical care and cutting-edge research. One of the key messages that comes out throughout the book is that rare endocrine surgical conditions require a collaborative multidisciplinary team approach to ensure that the children receive the very best management resulting in the most favorable outcomes.

It is our hope that this international, multidisciplinary perspective will give surgeons caring for children with endocrine conditions requiring surgery, additional insights that will lead to a better understanding of the conditions and ultimately improved patient care.

Seattle, USA
Oxford, UK

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Paul R.V. Johnson

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