

Danielle S. Walsh
Todd A. Ponsky
Nicholas E. Bruns *Editors*



The SAGES Manual of Pediatric Minimally Invasive Surgery



Springer

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Preface

...find though she be but little, she is fierce.—Shakespeare

More than once pediatric surgeons have heard general surgeons comment on their “fear” of caring for pediatric surgical patients. The diminutive size of the patient can intimidate, but those of us flourishing in the pediatric world recognize a well-kept secret—infants and children are fierce in their desire to live, handling the surgical insults that would cause many adults to give out, with determination of sometimes Olympic proportions. While they tolerate large incisions for invasive procedures with aplomb, showing their scars as badges of courage on the playground, we believe our kids deserve to reap the same benefits from minimally invasive techniques that the adult population embraces. This book was developed to help current and future surgeons in advancing their comfort in approaching children with laparoscopy, thoracoscopy, and endoscopy.

The mission of the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES) is to improve patient care through education, research, innovation, and leadership, principally in gastrointestinal endoscopic surgery. The pediatric surgery community within SAGES has been grateful that the leadership of SAGES has recognized the need to apply this mission to not only the adult general surgical population but to all patients, including our youngest and smallest. It is

with this in mind that these authors set out to educate *ALL* surgeons, not just pediatric specialists, in the applications of minimally invasive surgery to children through this textbook.

The focus of this text is on the technical knowhow of these minimally invasive techniques. There are larger resources for detailed information on pathophysiology and others reviewing each and every alternative technique for managing a particular disorder. However, this publication is for providing a safe way of technically approaching a particular problem utilizing percutaneous or per-orifice methods in a concise compendium. It is appropriate for the trained professional looking for a refresher on a less commonly performed intervention, an adult MIS surgeon with a pediatric emergency unable to be transferred, or a surgical student or resident in need of critical teaching points for understanding.

This coeditor team greatly appreciates the support we have received from SAGES and Springer in making this endeavor come to fruition. We applaud the authors, colleagues, staff, families, and patients who contributed to this book through either time, effort, patience, or use of their surgical journey to build the knowledge and content within these pages. It is our hope that many a student of surgery will benefit from the herein pearls of wisdom as they endeavor to improve the care of a pediatric surgical patient.

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