
The Art of Hernia Surgery

Giampiero Campanelli
Editor

The Art of Hernia Surgery

A Step-by-Step Guide

 Springer

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Giampiero Campanelli

University of Insubria, Istituto Clinico, Sant'Ambrogio General Surgery Day Surgery
Milan, Italy

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Foreword

This new hernia book, *The Art of Hernia Surgery: A Step-by-Step Guide*, edited by Professor Giampiero Campanelli, and which I have the honor and the privilege to present, summarizes the maximum knowledge of abdominal wall surgery at this time. It answers all the questions that surgeons, not just hernia surgeons, will find useful in their daily practice both for the benefit of their patients and for extending their own erudition.

As an esteemed hernia surgeon and as Secretary General of the European Hernia Society (EHS) for more than 15 years, Professor Campanelli, with whom I have collaborated for many years on the EHS Board, has seen many changes and many advances and has rubbed shoulders with the world's top specialists in herniology. He appreciated the value of their publications and for this reason chose these top specialists to write the 67 chapters of this book, which provide exhaustive information in the field of hernia surgery.

Although related to general and visceral surgery, surgery of the abdominal wall is now a specialty in its own right. The names of the early pioneers in modern hernia surgery and their books are well known, such as the publications of H. Fruchaud, L. Nyhus, B. Devlin, J.P. Chevrel or R. Bendavid, V.K. Nigam, and C. Avci.

A number of important events have led to abdominal wall surgery becoming a recognized specialty. These events include the creation of the GREPA Research Group on Wall Surgery in France by J.P. Chevrel in 1979, this Group becoming the EHS in 1996. The following year, in 1997, an international journal, *Hernia*, was founded. Also notable are the creation of the American Hernia Society in 1998 in Miami and the creation of the Asia Pacific Hernia Society in 2004.

As well as these important societies, numerous other national hernia societies have been created, leading to a new surgical dynamic. Publication requirements have gradually improved, with detailed statistical evaluations, randomized trials, comparative studies, and so on. All of this activity has led industry to develop, at our request, multiple kinds of prostheses (more than 250), both synthetic and biological, in various materials, textures, shapes, and dimensions. We could also add the invention of many and varied means of fixation—sutures, staples, and glues. Other advances have led to such changes as laparoscopic surgery, robotic surgery, and ambulatory surgery.

The content of the book is the result of all the scientific research, evaluation, and data generated by these societies through their publications.

The originality of this book lies in its short and easy-to-read chapters, with their complete descriptions of current methods and applicable references. The book offers a broad range of subjects that are rarely tackled by other hernia books. Among these topics, we can mention the problems of prevention and emergencies, the new total extraperitoneal repair technique, open abdomen and component separation operations, and the [Mini- or Less-open Sublay Operation \(MILOS\)](#) technique; also provided are hernia classifications and guidelines.

In addition, you will find an original presentation of the anatomy of the abdominal wall, as well as detailed descriptions of traditional techniques in the treatment of various types of hernias, including incisional hernias. Improvements in these techniques and their recent results are also described. In short, you will have everything to guide you in the decision-making process.

In summary, it is a huge pleasure for me to introduce this new and complete practical hernia book, which is based on recent publications, clearly presented, and enhanced with significant illustrations.

I am sure that this book will be a reference for any surgeon, beginner or senior, who is looking for information on recent methods and techniques in hernia surgery.

I extend my congratulations to Professor Giampiero Campanelli and his co-authors for this new hernia book, which is sure to become very successful.

Paris, France

Jean Henri Alexandre

Preface

Over 100 years ago Edoardo Bassini, the great pride of Italian surgery, wrote about whether it was still necessary to argue about hernia surgery.

Actually, from Hippocrates' time until today, and certainly for decades to come, we will continue to talk about hernia surgery and to discuss this topic.

In the last 30 years, during my succession of personal, academic, and, especially, professional activities, I have had—for more than 15 years—the honor of holding the leadership of the European Hernia Society. This organization has become a great Society, that, with the American Hernia Society, the Asia Pacific Hernia Society, the Afro Middle East Hernia Society, and the Australasian Hernia Society, involves the best international professionals in the field. The members of these Societies, I like to remember, are responsible for the largest numbers of hernia surgeries carried out worldwide.

With the scientific expansion spearheaded by these Societies, technological and material evolution has been such as to arouse the interest of companies, patients, media, and, especially, surgeons.

The fundamental objective in surgery of the abdominal wall is that of a *restitutio ad integrum*; that is, a reconstruction that is as natural as possible and which can achieve a perfect repair in the different wall regions, with, at the same time, a level of recurrences and complications that is as low as possible.

But today this objective is not our only aim.

More important has become the concept of quality of life, which appears in even the most serious and important series as an essential item whose measurement is requested by the individual patient after such surgery.

Essentially, postoperative comfort for the recovery of normal life and work habits, and in some cases the improvement of sports performances, and finally a natural appearance, have become collateral objectives that are increasingly requested and form an essential part of our daily activity.

To this end, we have gradually developed a concept of tailor-made surgery, which, together with the employment of our international guidelines, must permeate the training and daily activity of surgeons who want to dedicate their professional life to this exciting journey, which nowadays is recognized as a super specialization, mostly realized at specific worldwide hernia centers, but also realized in general surgery departments, by general surgeons.

The precise concept behind this book is to give a real guide to expert herniologists and to general surgeons the world over, suggesting different approaches, outlining technological aspects, and providing tips and tricks.

These contributions come from the wide experience of the authors—friends, who, with me, share their passion and daily practices in the journey along this complex, beautiful, and always developing path.

Milan, Italy

Giampiero Campanelli

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