
Chassin's Operative Strategy in General Surgery

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Editors

Chassin's Operative Strategy in General Surgery

An Expositive Atlas

Fifth Edition

 Springer

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ISBN 978-3-030-81414-4 ISBN 978-3-030-81415-1 (eBook)

<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-81415-1>

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This Springer imprint is published by the registered company Springer Nature Switzerland AG
The registered company address is: Gewerbestrasse 11, 6330 Cham, Switzerland

For surgery residents everywhere
Umut Sarpel

Foreword to the Third Edition

Eight years have passed since the publication of the second edition of this atlas. During that period, I retired from the practice of surgery and from the chairmanship of the Department of Surgery at the New York Hospital Medical Center of Queens, concluding an exciting and stimulating run of 34 years, the highlight of which was teaching several generations of residents the intellectual and technical details of surgery. A vital component of this program was the atlas *Operative Strategy in General Surgery*, the first edition of which was published in 1980. The success of this work was due in large part to the fact that it was based on my day-to-day learning and teaching in the operating room. Having retired from the operating room, I felt that I could not produce a quality, up-to-date product for the third edition of this work. Fortunately, we were able to recruit an outstanding surgeon-teacher to edit the third edition.

Dr. Carol Scott-Conner, whom I taught when she was a resident in 1980, has the intellect, teaching skills, and drive to have functioned as an author, surgeon, teacher, and Head of the Department of Surgery at the University of Iowa. In editing this volume, she has reviewed each chapter to make sure that the text and references are up to date. Although the previous editions were the work of a single author (me), it is a fact that surgery and medical science have advanced so rapidly that it is no longer feasible for a single author to write a comprehensive surgical text like this one. Consequently, 13 prominent surgeons have each contributed a chapter that reviews and analyzes recent advances in the fields of the contributor's special expertise. Eight new operations have been added, most of which are laparoscopic procedures. In addition, 77 operations from my last edition, having proven themselves worthy by the test of time, are included in this volume, together with the meticulous operating room illustrations by Caspar Henselmann. Many of these procedures are complex, such as esophagectomy, total colectomy with ileoanal pouch, and pancreatoduodenectomy. Special attention has been paid to emphasize in the drawings the detailed teaching points that will make these operations safe for the patient.

I hope that our combined efforts have produced an atlas that you will find useful.

New York, NY, USA

Jameson L. Chassin, MD

Preface to the Fifth Edition

The year was 1979. I was a fourth-year surgical resident at New York University, sent for a 2-month rotation to the (then) Booth Memorial Medical Center. Many university programs have a similar rotation: residents are sent to an outlying affiliated hospital for a couple of months of intensive bread-and-butter surgery and an experience of what life is like in the real world of private practice. Jim Chassin, his associates Jim Turner and Kenny Rifkind, and the Booth Memorial residents welcomed me and shared their busy surgical practice with me. My notes from the time indicate I scrubbed on a wide variety of cases, many with Jim Chassin. The procedures were the very operations described in this text, and I hear his voice coaching me as I read his words.

Surgical staplers were just coming into common use that year. My university program had not yet adopted these devices, reasoning that residents need to learn how to suture before using staplers. Thus, it was from Jim Chassin that I learned how to do a low anterior resection with a circular stapled anastomosis. He reinforced his instructions with copies of the typed manuscripts of the relevant chapters from a book he was writing, complete with rough sketches by his artist. When the first volume of the first edition of Chassin's *Operative Strategy in General Surgery* came out, I bought it and literally wore out my copy. The second volume followed in due course, and eventually a second edition. I recommended the book to untold numbers of residents.

It was thus with a sense of the circle coming around to full closure that I undertook the editorship of the third edition upon Dr. Chassin's retirement from that role. Searching through my files, I found original manuscript copies with my handwritten notes from that 1979 rotation.

Eighteen years have now passed since that third edition was published. A fourth edition followed, and now I am proud to release the fifth edition.

This fifth edition is a major revision that strives to remain faithful to the purpose and tone of Dr. Chassin's original text. Four section editors—Andreas M. Kaiser, MD; Ninh T. Nguyen, MD; Umut Sarpel, MD; and Sonia Sugg, MD—have brought specialized expertise to appropriate parts. All of the art is new, created specifically for this edition. Color is used throughout, and color photographs have been added.

The purpose of this volume remains, as it was so eloquently stated by Frank C. Spencer, MD, in the foreword to the first edition, to serve “all clinical surgeons, both those in training and those in surgical practice” by “specifically discussing the conceptual basis of the operation as well as the strategy that will help the surgeon avoid common pitfalls ... the operative technique is then described step by step.”

As an academic surgeon, I am struck by how frequently a resident will comment “I’ve never even seen one of these” when we embark upon certain formerly common operations, such as an open common bile duct exploration. For this new generation of surgeons, I’ve included most of the procedures that were in previous editions. Those that are rarely used are labeled *Surgical Legacy Technique*, for that is what this book is—the legacy of a master surgeon: an extraordinary surgeon and a kind and gentle man I have been privileged to scrub with and to have as a friend. I hope that you will still hear his voice speaking through these pages.

This work could not have been completed without the wise counsel of Richard Hruska, my editor; the skilled assistance of Margaret Burns, developmental editor; and the loving support of my husband, Dr. Harry Conner. My patients, students, residents, and coworkers continue to teach and inspire me.

Iowa City, IA, USA

Carol E. H. Scott-Conner, MD, PhD

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