



**Treatise on Oesophageal Pathology and Surgery
(*Tratat de patologie și chirurgie esofagiană*)**

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This year, the Romanian Academy Publishing House (Editura Academiei Române) published a treatise on oesophageal pathology and surgery, under the coordination of Professor S. Constantinoiu and the editorial staff comprised of I. Cordoș, C. Ciuce, V. Scripcariu, a remarkable editorial event for the Romanian medical literature. The conception, organization and publication of such a treatise covering all aspects of the oesophageal surgical pathology demonstrates the strength of the contemporary Romanian surgical community, which the publisher managed to mobilize, and the continuation of an internationally recognized tradition through the graces of Professor Dan Gavrilu, who published about oesophageal surgery in 1957.

This work is a reflection of the achievements of Romanian surgery and a synthesis of the progresses that oesophageal surgery has seen over recent years.

Throughout its 803 pages, the treatise, well-structured in 17 chapters, brings together a wide range of national and international collaborations (47 authors) and provides specialists with the latest data on oesophageal surgical pathology.

The first chapter, signed by Professor S. Constantinoiu, also passionate about the history of medicine, describes in detail the history of oesophageal surgery.

The following 4 chapters address the surgical anatomy and the physiology of the oesophagus (D. Predescu, S. Constantinoiu), superior digestive endoscopy in oesophageal pathology (Daniela Dinu, P. Hoară, Irina Predescu, D. Predescu), oesophageal imaging (D. Predescu, S. Constantinoiu) and functional investigations (P. Hoară, Rodica Bârlă).

Chapter 6 presents anaesthesia (R. Stoica, Genoveva Cadar), nutrition and intensive care of the patient with oesophageal disease (Ioana Grigoraş, Irina Ristescu).

Chapter 7 extensively describes oesophageal atresia and tracheo-oesophageal fistulae (R. Draşovean, C. Ciuce).

A complex chapter (Chapter 8), which captures the reader through the novelty of the information provided, refers to gastro-oesophageal reflux pathology, which is so common nowadays. Hiatal hernias (S. Constantinoiu, Cristina Gîndea), signs of reflux disease (GERD) and its complications (A. Constantin, Fl. Achim), functional and imaging investigations in GERD (P. Hoară, Daniela Dinu, A. Caragui) are presented in great detail. Barrett oesophagus (Rodica Bîrlă) occupies a central spot, being approached from a multidisciplinary point of view: diagnosis, pathological anatomy, complications, indications for medical and surgical treatment, adeno-carcinoma developed on Barrett oesophagus. Next, the chapter also covers: medical treatment in GERD, indications of surgical treatment in hiatal hernia and GERD, classical and laparoscopic surgical techniques in hiatal hernia and GERD (Nissen, Dor and Toupet, Belsey - Mark IV operation, surgery for GERD complications, oesophageal stenting etc.) (S. Constantinoiu et al.), unconventional minimally invasive therapy for GERD (A.E. Nicolau, A. Lobonţiu), reflux disease associated with obesity (C. Copăescu), hiatal antireflux surgery failures, Roux-en-Y procedure in GERD (I.N. Mateş).

Chapter 9 provides current data on oesophageal motility disorders requiring surgical intervention: oesophageal diverticulitis and cardiac achalasia (S. Constantinoiu et al), Chagas disease (Matias Losano Brotons).

Chapter 10 is dedicated to post-caustic oesophagitis: aetiology and diagnosis (D. Predescu), treatment (V. Binţinţan, C. Ciuce), oesophageal reconstruction



techniques using right ileo-colon and transverse colon, left colon (D. Predescu, S. Constantinoiu).

The following two chapters address oesophageal foreign bodies and trauma to the oesophagus (perforations and contusions, Boerhaave syndrome).

Chapter 13 treats benign oesophageal tumours (I. Cordoş, C. Bolca).

An important chapter, extensively developed, is Chapter 14, dedicated to oesophageal cancer, with 8 subchapters: epidemiology and etiopathogenesis (S. Constantinoiu, I.N. Mateş), clinical aspects (R. Scurtu, G. Dindelegan, C. Ciuce), imaging and staging of oesophageal cancer (V. Scripcariu, B. Filip), pathological anatomy (Cristina Iosif, Simona Enache), radiochemistry in oesophageal cancer (Rodica Anghel), stenting in locally advanced stages (G. Dimofte), and oesophageal bypass (I.N. Mateş, S. Constantinoiu).



Chapter 15 extensively presents the surgical treatment of oesophageal cancer: approaches of the cervical and cervical-mediastinal oesophagus (S. Constantinoiu, Fl. Achim), reconstruction of the pharynx and cervical oesophagus through free jejunum transfer (C. Ciuce), oesophagus approaches via the thorax (I. Cordoş, C. Bolca), Sloan-Orringer transhiatal oesophagectomy (S. Constantinoiu), McKeown triple approach oesophagectomy, radical oesophagectomy (I. Cordoş), three-field lymphadenectomy in oesophageal cancer (V. Scipcariu, B. Filip), minimally invasive oesophagectomy, robotic oesophagectomy (S. Constantinoiu, Fl. Achim), reconstruction of the oesophagus with colonic interposition (R. Scurtu, C. Ciuce), or with the stomach (I. Cordoş) in oesophageal cancer, postoperative period (Luminița Cociu), complications of oesophageal resection (C. Ciuce), quality of life and prognosis in oesophageal cancer patients (V. Scipcariu, B. Filip).

Chapter 16 provides new data on esogastric junction adenocarcinoma.

This volume ends with the presentation of rare oesophageal malignant tumours: stromal tumours, neuroendocrine tumours, lymphomas, sarcomas, melanomas, metastases (M. Gheorghe, I.N. Mateş).

The treatise, based on a rich Romanian

experience and on the study of an exhaustive recent bibliography is easy to go through due to the concise, orderly and clear style and to modern editing. The very rich, good quality, colour iconography renders the work an academic feel.

The excellent graphic state honours the Romanian Academy Publishing House, which has published this volume. The treatise is addressed to resident doctors, specialists and consultants of general surgery, thoracic surgery, ENT, oromaxillofacial surgery, but also to residents and specialists in related fields (gastroenterology, anaesthesiology and intensive care), as well as to all those who want to add to their knowledge of surgery.

As the renowned thoracic surgery Professor T. Horvat said in his foreword, "this treatise is the missing granite stone from the edifice of Romanian surgical literature, it is the treatise of the current generation of surgeons, which will only be written once again after a generation will have passed".

The publishing of this masterly treatise, the most complete and up-to-date in Romanian literature, represents a special editorial event, and the editor, known for his high professionalism, for the passion and perseverance he puts into everything he accomplishes, is part of the rare category of people who make up the drive and the engine of going forward.

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