

Interventional endoscopy has made new strides since the first edition of this book six years ago. In the second edition we have incorporated novel procedures that have entered the mainstream. We have kept the same didactic format, using richly detailed color illustrations to tell the procedural story. The artist's work is accompanied by legends that elaborate on each procedural step. The book's text follows a standardized format that we hope the reader will find practical and easy-to-navigate.

This book seeks to portray the realistic therapeutic capabilities of endoscopy in its day-to-day practice. It is based on many years of professional endoscopic accomplishments, scientific studies, personal experience, and the outcome of critical interdisciplinary teamwork. It reflects the current state of diagnostic and interventional gastrointestinal endoscopy and its related responsibilities.

Each chapter covering a therapeutic procedure is categorized into the following key segments: General definition of the clinical entity, indications, prerequisites, instruments, technique, and procedural limitations and complications.

An informed and cooperative patient, a correct diagnosis and indication, and meticulous, skillful technique are

critical to the success of the endoscopic procedure. Thorough knowledge of the endoscopic anatomy and pathological conditions is also a fundamental prerequisite.

We used original anatomic-endoscopic drawings to portray the technical concepts and details of the procedure. These are didactically more informative than photos or sketches based on photos. The drawings provide a synthesis of the endoscopist's view and the technical approach and interpretation. The text is concise and the legends to the figures highly detailed. The contents of the book aspire to translate the precise spoken word into a lucid form.

Thanks and recognition are also due to our illustrator, Franziska von Aspern; her combination of subject knowledge and artistic talent made the translation of endoscopic reality into pictorial images possible. Her skill was decisive to the success of this book.

We thank Thieme Publishing Group for their continued support in making the 2nd edition possible.

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