Preface

Modern Concepts in Pancreatic Surgery

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Editors

Our knowledge of pancreatic diseases continues to evolve rapidly, yet often we feel defeated when dealing with the individual patient. Countless times we approach pancreatic pathology with confidence only to find that this fickle organ has once again thrown us a knuckleball—patients too often on the losing end, and defeat that we all find intolerable. Perhaps that’s what drives those of us that have the temerity to not only operate on these patients but also offer them hope as well. I would submit that progress is being made, perhaps not fast enough, but we are seeing success little by little. Multi-institutional collaboration has been particularly helpful in this regard, and it is reassuring to know that pancreatic surgeons are working collectively to further advance our understanding of both benign and malignant pancreatic disorders. Such efforts by pancreatic specialists allow close scrutiny of surgical outcomes and quality metrics that engender optimal patient care.

Ron Martin and I are pleased to offer this update on the surgical management of pancreatic disorders. Rather than focus on one specific area of pancreatic pathology, we sought to broaden the scope of this compendium to a spectrum of topics relevant to all physicians and surgeons that treat those afflicted with diseases of the pancreas. Thus, this issue of the Surgical Clinics of North America offers a timely and authoritative treatise that will not only educate but also hopefully prosper future research endeavors.

We are indebted to our coauthors for their contributions in their individual fields of expertise. All are respected, busy clinicians that practice their craft to the highest level.
Their time and commitment to this monograph in the face of other demands is deeply appreciated and we know you will find their work stimulating and a joy to read.

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