

Camran Nezhat, Farr Nezhat, Ceana Nezhat, editors.
Nezhat's Operative Gynecologic Laparoscopy and Hysteroscopy. Third edition. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2008.

The latest rendition of *Nezhat's Operative Gynecologic Laparoscopy and Hysteroscopy* builds upon the success of the previous works with a comprehensive review of minimally invasive gynecologic procedures. In this third edition, the Nezhat family has assembled an impressive list of contributors to cover the full spectrum of minimally invasive gynecologic surgery. The book begins with forewords by renowned physicians Thomas M. Krummel, Linda S. Giudice, Carmel J. Cohen, and Jonathan S. Beck. They capture the essence of this book with phrases such as "a treasure," "says it all and says it well," "pleasure to read," and "helps us ... provide the best possible care."

The book opens with an enlightening chapter on the history of laparoscopy and then logically progresses to the basics of laparoscopic equipment and anesthesia. However, the remainder of the text is divided in a somewhat unorthodox manner, in some cases based on broad clinical areas, such as fertility and gynecologic malignancies, and in others focused on disease states, such as endometriosis or leiomyomas. In addition, specific procedures (hysteroscopy) and specific techniques (suturing) are covered in separate chapters. The overview of laparoscopic suturing (chapter 5) seems to be somewhat out of place and at the very least should have followed the discussion of anatomy (chapter 6). However, the overall flow of contents will seem very intuitive to the practicing gynecologic surgeon while also serving as reference for those in training or needing a refresher on a specific area.

Throughout this authoritative text, the reader is reminded of the basics: knowing your equipment, preoperative planning, and avoidance of complications. Common procedures, such as management of adhesions, adnexal masses, and removal of the uterus, are also covered in depth. Individuals who practice outside the scope of the average reproductive surgeon will enjoy the sections dealing with less common diagnoses, such as thoracic endometriosis and Rokitansky syndrome (absent vagina and uterus) as well as highly specialized pediatric and vascular laparoscopic surgery. This volume offers numerous pearls for avoiding unwanted outcomes, but chapters 20 and 25 focus exclusively on management of surgical complications.

As a practicing reproductive endocrinologist, I especially enjoyed the chapter on fertility and the sections on in vitro

fertilization (IVF). Likewise, the authors' approach to uterine and tubal surgery is both thoughtful and practical. The initial section in this chapter also highlights the underutilized and rapidly evolving techniques of fertility preservation. The chapter might have been enhanced with a discussion of the role of reproductive surgery in the era of IVF with a cost-benefit analysis focusing on the most important outcome, i.e., successful birth of a healthy child. Nonetheless, all levels of practitioners who deal with infertility can find practical tips in this chapter.

The Nezhat family has remained on the cutting edge of surgery throughout their illustrious careers and this textbook follows their *modus operandi*. This fact is best highlighted by the chapters dealing with laparoscopic simulation and robotic surgery. The overview of laparoscopic simulators (chapter 22) contains a thoughtful discussion of the need for simulator training in surgical training. The comprehensive list of the simulator tasks and the pictorial glossary of numerous commercially available systems were especially helpful. The section on validation studies reminds the reader of the growing body of literature to support the notion that simulator use increases the proficiency of the surgeon and reduces intraoperative errors. Chapter 23 provides an overview of several robotic systems and the procedures for which they have been applied. This chapter's numerous pictures and illustrations will be appreciated by those unfamiliar with robotic surgery. The available outcome data and the limitations of current techniques are also highlighted. The author contends that "the future of robotics lies in its ability to transcend human capability." Superhuman tactile sensation, miniaturization, and remote surgery may prove to be the future of robotic gynecologic surgery.

Simply put, "this book is well done." Everything from the binding and typesetting to the photographs and artwork is first rate. The combination of operative footage and detailed illustrations found throughout the book dramatically enhances one's understanding of the surgical anatomy as it relates to the procedure at hand. Each chapter is up to date and exhaustively referenced. This textbook will occupy space on my favorite shelf but it is unlikely to gather dust.

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