

VOICE CONSERVATION SURGERY FOR LARYNGEAL AND HYPOPHARYNGEAL CANCER

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It is with great interest that the reviewer read through this book by Dr Sultan Pradhan. Comparisons to the classic, Carl Silver's *Surgery of Larynx*, which this reviewer readily devoured during his training in surgical oncology, and head and neck oncology some 20 years ago, were inevitable. Since then, there has been significant progress in the field of laryngeal oncology and surgery, including organ conservation regimes with chemotherapy and/or radiation therapy. New operations, such as supracrioid partial laryngectomy and endoscopic microlaryngoscopic laser surgery, were also popularised. Dr Pradhan's new book did not disappoint. These new topics are covered extensively and the book is to be welcomed as it provides the modern head and neck surgical oncologists a new reference for practice.

The book chapters are well and systematically outlined. A historical perspective is given at the start of the book. This is particularly useful as it serves to highlight not only the pioneering work of our surgical forefathers, but also the dynamic evolution of management of this disease, and the therapeutic dilemmas involved in attempting to preserve form and function without losing the best possible chance of a cure. The embryological and pathological basis for laryngeal conservative surgery is highlighted next. It would have been useful in this chapter to include anatomical drawings of the larynx so as to better appreciate the important points highlighted in the biology of laryngeal cancer. The anatomical drawings can also be augmented by radiological images from MRI and CT scans. This will provide a 3-dimensional understanding of a very complex anatomical and physiological organ. The routes for the spread of cancer and the embryological basis for partial laryngectomies can then be appreciated. Surgery is, after all, a very visual science.

The management algorithms in the various stages of cancer of the larynx, and its various subsites, are outlined next. While the reviewer agrees with most of the authors' recommendations, it would be useful for the readers to be provided with the relevant references for his recommendations. This omission may be a reflection of the extensive experience of the author. The technical aspects of laryngeal surgery are well-described in subsequent chapters. One cannot help but be impressed by the authoritative chapters and discussions of the various types of voice conservation surgery. There is, in addition, a very useful introductory chapter on transoral microlaryngoscopic laser surgery.

Dr Pradhan is to be congratulated for authoring such a useful book. It provides the neophytes a useful reference, and for those actively involved in the management of laryngeal and hypopharyngeal cancers, considerable reading pleasure. It is very readable and informative, and I highly recommend it.

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