Book Review


"Ear Surgery Illustrated: Comprehensive Atlas of Otologic Microsurgical Techniques," Edited by Robert Jackler and Illustrated by Christine Gralapp is a spectacular summary of the state of the art in otologic surgery presented with concise text and meticulously accurate illustrations highlighting the surgically relevant anatomy and critical steps of the full array of otologic procedures.

The book is presented in a logical progression from basic otologic anatomy through surgical procedures for tympanoplasty, mastoidectomy, ossiculoplasty, stapedectomy, vestibular surgery, petrous apex surgery, and patient information handouts. This book is a culmination of decades-long collaboration between the lead author-surgeon and the illustrator which has produced a thoughtful combination of clear illustrations highlighting the key points described in the brief accompanying text. While the illustrations are beautiful and clear, their value is the obvious effort to correct anatomic errors of previous publications by other authors, for instance the anatomically correct depiction of relationships of the superior semicircular canal, tegmen and middle ear are surgically relevant in properly planning and executing effective surgery. Technical pearls are plainly described and illustrated like techniques to protect the ear canal skin flap during canalplasty, strategies to safely remove cholesteatoma form a mobile footplate, and placing a cartilage graft in the first stage of two-stage ossiculoplasty. Similarly, the book described alternative strategies for the same procedure like superior canal dehiscence repair and tympanoplasty.

The production qualities make the text a pleasure to read as a cover-to-cover primer for residents or a reference book for experienced surgeons. The 493 page text includes over 1,000 full-color illustrations.

This book should be required readings for trainees learning otologic surgery and will serve as a superb reference manual for practicing otologists.

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