

PREFACE

The current textbook has evolved from an innovative publication by our senior editor, Dr. Ben Eiseman, entitled *Prognosis of Surgical Disease*, published in 1980. Dr. Eiseman, a thinker ahead of his time, has always been quick to challenge accepted methods. In the later half of this century, the relevance and importance of outcomes and expectancies has become a central focus. When Dr. Eiseman published his first book, surgeons were still primarily concerned with the science of technique and pre- and postoperative care. We were ill-prepared for the insistence of managed care that we look carefully at outcomes, length of stay, and cost-effectiveness. In today's environment patients and their families are also more vocal and involved in informed consent. Armed with material from the lay press and most recently from the Internet they demand to participate in the decisions about their health care.

A diagrammatic approach to textbooks has been a successful format for Dr. Eiseman, starting in 1978 with his book *Surgical Decision Making*, which is now in its third edition, with a fourth edition in the planning stages. We commend Dr. Eiseman for his insight and foresight. At his encouragement Dr. McKellar and I embarked on this current publication. We thought that this would be a rather simple, straightforward venture and that we merely had to convey the concept to the contributors. In retrospect, we are awed that Dr. Eiseman was able to publish his initial work without the benefit of word processors, software, e-mail, fax transmission, and overnight express, for numerous revisions of first drafts of manuscript were necessary to achieve a uniform approach.

As in 1980 the intended audience is general surgeons, residents, and family practitioners, to help them quickly inform their patients of expected outcomes with the use of simple diagrams. Although the title of the book indicates surgical diseases, we have included surgical procedures in some cases. Time and size limited our over-zealous dreams to publish a truly comprehensive text. We have, however, included a great majority of the common disease processes and where appropriate procedures.

In addition to appealing to practitioners, we anticipate managed care, including Medicare, will be in-

terested in the concept that we present. At the time of publication the major source of length of stay outcomes used by a large percentage of managed care organizations is not based on reasonable and reproducible scientific data, even though practitioners and patients are subjected to medical decisions based on that lack of data. We anticipate that the framework presented in this book will be used and modified with new and better defined outcomes by managed care and practitioners.

The format of the chapters is similar to Dr. Eiseman's original text, including the horizontal orientation and the fact that the bound book is both shorter and wider than its companion volumes on the bookshelf. This was the subject of much discussion with the publisher! We have attempted to restrict the text and diagrams to outcomes and expectancies rather than resorting to the diagnostic and therapeutic approach that most decision-making texts adopt. Contributors have tried to include the most recent prospective data. This has been easier for some procedures and diseases than others. When it appeared that no recent data were available, we deleted such chapters. In his foreword Dr. Weigelt indicates the efforts that we have taken and acknowledges the paucity of solid information from which to draw, which he is well aware of as the editor-in-chief of a peer-reviewed journal dedicated to outcomes—*The Journal of Surgical Outcomes*. Dr. Keith Reemtsma has been actively involved with the American College of Surgeons (ACS) in developing appropriate outcomes analyses, but significant results are just now becoming available. We hope that young surgeons will choose to concentrate their efforts on research in outcomes and expectancies. Future revisions of this textbook will include material from these and other developing sources. Ideally we will be able to include only the most current, prospective data, the goal of all scientifically valid medical data!

The enthusiasm of the many contributors to this textbook has been overwhelming. We commend each and every one for their tireless efforts in getting their chapters into the proper form and mode. We hope that the reader will find the format user friendly and beneficial to their patients.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are deeply indebted to the many outstanding surgeons and physicians who have contributed their expertise to this book. Without their experience and willingness to invest their time, this book would not exist. We personally thank each and every one of them for their expertise, effort, and superb skill.

Without the untiring assistance of Carlene Hunt, this book would never have been completed. She willingly performed all those many tasks needed to coordinate the efforts of the editors, authors, and publisher. The library staff at Kettering Medical Center has been especially helpful and has responded to our many requests, often on short notice. To Jane Buch, M.L.S., the library director, and to her staff, Ron Lundquist, M.L.S., Diana Jackson, and Donna Lawrence, we extend our gratitude.

We pay very special tribute to the staff at Quality Medical Publishing who have been so helpful in bringing this book to fruition. Karen Berger, the President of QMP, has been a great source of inspiration and counsel. She readily perceived the value of the concept of outcomes and expectancies and has the necessary measures of optimism and affirmation, assistance, and advice. Special consideration must also be given to Esha Gupta, Katherine Spakowski, Susan Trail, Kathy Jenkins, and Billie Forshee. We had almost daily communications with Esha, including a weekend spent in St. Louis, and they were all marked by her delightful enthusiasm and professionalism. Kathy, Susan, and Billie have worked tirelessly to produce the final product, of which we are very proud. We are also indebted to Joel and Sharon Harris who are responsible for the attractive layout of the algorithms.

Finally, we personally want to acknowledge and thank our wives and families for the patience and endurance they have shown during the publication of this book.

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