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## Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease

Principles of Disease,  
Diagnosis, and Treatment

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*This book is dedicated to my parents – Rolf and Wiltrud,  
who supported me all over the years with all their love.  
Special thanks for all to my wife Ursula Maria  
and my teacher Rudolph Pointner.*

F. A. Granderath

*To the loves of my life – Uli, Max and Sophie – my parents,  
family, friends and all staff members.  
Thank you all for the support during all the years.*

T. Kamolz

## PREFACE

Gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) is one of the most common gastrointestinal disorders in the Western world. In recent years, there have been many developments in the field of GERD. At least, all these developments have helped to find new diagnostic procedures and different treatment concepts. As well known, GERD affects patients quality of life and leads to a significant economic burden on society. Therefore, all further investigations should primary aim in an improvement of patients daily life.

The challenge of this book is to critically evaluate the currently available literature and to present for all you who are interested in the field of GERD the basic principles of disease, diagnostic and treatment. We, the editors, are more than proud that a large number of the world wide leading experts have accepted our invitation to contribute on this book.

In the first part of the book, the authors discuss aspects of epidemiology, pathophysiology, GERD in relation to age and gender, the progression of GERD to Barrett's esophagus, GERD and hiatal hernia or the role of *Helicobacter pylori*.

The second part addresses specific areas of medical and endoscopic management as well as general diagnostics and presurgical evaluation: the role of endoscopy, esophageal manometry and pH monitoring or radiology.

The third part includes all relevant aspects of surgical treatment including a historical review of surgical history in GERD. The chapters present aspects such as surgical techniques, outcomes, failures of surgery and their management as well as new trends in surgery such as robotic antireflux surgery or the use of prosthetic material for hiatal closure.

In contrast to other books, we have finally included a fourth block of chapters describing primary the patients view of disease. Therefore, aspects such as patients quality of life before and after different concepts of treatment, psychological aspects of GERD but also the socio-economic view are included.

We all hope that this book will help provide further guidance for all those of you who work in the field of GERD – independently if they work as a general practitioner, a gastroenterologist, a surgeon or a nurse – and that you will find the material helpful for your work.

Zell am See, October 2005

*Frank A. Granderath  
Thomas Kamolz  
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