

## BOOK REVIEW

### **Atlas of Minimally Invasive Surgery**

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Saunders, 2009.

The Atlas of Minimally Invasive Surgery [1] is a new multimedia “DVD-atlas” of general surgery related laparoscopic surgical procedures. This is the first edition of this book, published in 2009. The stated goal of this atlas is “to combine a conventional operative atlas with a set of DVDs that contain edited video of each procedure described in the text.” The editors report in the preface that this approach differentiates this atlas from previous instructional video/text presentations in that it contains all of the commonly performed laparoscopic procedures in one presentation. A disclaimer by the authors – this book is not meant to be an encyclopedia of every technique described for every type of procedure. During the planning process, the authors generated a list of what they believed were the most commonly performed laparoscopic procedures in general surgery. Chapter authors with extensive experience in each specific procedure were selected. This is essentially a collection of “how I do it” descriptions, intended as a teaching aid for medical students, surgical residents, and practicing surgeons.

There are nine major areas of focus covered in this multimedia textbook. These include esophagus, stomach, small bowel, colon and rectum, hepatobiliary system, pancreas and spleen, kidneys and adrenal glands, hernia, and general topics. General topics include antimicrobial prophylaxis in laparoscopic surgery, anesthetic implications of laparoscopy, and instrumentation in laparoscopic surgery. Each major area of focus contains anywhere from two to seven procedures. The written text describing each procedure is succinct, containing mostly technical information and considerations, with little discussion regarding controversial or in-depth issues. Chapters are well organized and generally consist of a procedure-specific introduction, a description of the operative indications, preoperative testing, patient positioning, trocar placement,

operative technique, postoperative care, management of procedure specific complications, and results. Illustrations are in color and professionally rendered. Intraoperative laparoscopic images printed in the text are all in color, crisp and not pixilated or dark. It is relatively easy from the pictures and the accompanying description to discern the anatomic area of interest.

The text and the DVDs are complimentary. The text comes with a two-DVD set. The DVDs are in a plastic sleeve inside the front cover of the text for convenience. The DVDs ran easily without the need to download additional software on both my laptop and on my desktop computer. The DVDs played smoothly without skipping or freezing in my experience. I found that the DVDs complimented the text very nicely. The videos for each individual procedure run for 10 to 15 min in general. The text is useful as a stand alone reference without the DVDs. The DVD movies refer often to the material in the text, and are most informative when viewed with occasional reference to the text as well. The images in the movies are clear. The movies are all professionally edited, and for the most part are excellent case examples of the representative procedure. Each movie is narrated by Dr. Robert Condon. Dr. Condon does an exceptional job with the narration. He speaks in clear, measured words and with authority. There is little excess dialogue beyond what is necessary to describe the particular step of the operation being executed. I found the videos very enjoyable and easy to watch.

Overall, this is a well written and nicely organized multimedia atlas of common procedures. This reviewer recommends this textbook for anyone interested in a nice, easy to use resource of the techniques used in common laparoscopic procedures by recognized experts in the field. One specific technique is presented for each procedure, often when a variety of techniques and controversies exist without a discussion of the issues or options. For a more detailed, in-depth examination of the alternatives for each procedure, readers may want to consider a different resource, or more likely multiple other resources.

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#### REFERENCE

1. Frantzides CT, Carlson MA. Atlas of minimally invasive surgery. Philadelphia, PA: Saunders, 2009.