

Video assisted thoracic surgery (VATS) has been initially introduced for elementary thoracic surgical procedures. Because of its benefits compared with open surgery in terms of less postoperative pain, decreased postoperative complications, shorter hospital stay, earlier resumption of normal activities, VATS has quickly applied to complex procedures such as major lung resection, thymectomy, esophagectomy, providing same advantages.

However, VATS has some limitations, such as two-dimensional vision and counter intuitive movement using long rigid instruments; these limitations have been in part overcome by the introduction of robotic surgery which with the three-dimensional vision and the endo-wrist technology helped surgeons to perform, with a minimally invasive approach, procedures which require an unnatural angle in hand and wrist with VATS instruments. Though, the use of robots has some pros and cons which are still matter of debate.

The *Robotic Thoracic Surgery: A Collection of Clinical Pearls*, is a collection of papers, recently published by experts in this fields working in renowned Centers all over the world, which provides an exhaustive review of surgical aspects and current debated issues of robotic approach to thoracic surgical disease.

In its three sections, Thymectomy, Esophagectomy and Pulmonary Surgery, the authors discuss different robotic surgical techniques highlighting their positives and negatives, indications to robotic surgery in mediastinal and lung disease, complications related to robotic approach and advantages and disadvantages of using robots over other minimally invasive approach such as uniportal and multiportal VATS.

In this way, the reader has a complete scenario of current robotic thoracic surgery and this textbook may be used by young surgeons as a guide, while they approach this art. Moreover, I guess that also senior surgeons may have a great opportunity to go deep into the topic of robotic surgery, profitably comparing their clinical practice with the reported experiences of the most relevant experts in this field.

Its my honor and pleasure to provide the preface to this textbook, which is the result of the effective cooperation between Colleagues, with a marked interest in this specific subject, and the AME Publishing team, which have taken care of the editing process. Enjoy the interesting reading!



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