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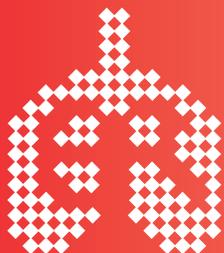
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Surgery for Non-Neoplastic Disorders of the Chest: a Clinical Update

Edited by

G.M. Verleden, D. Van Raemdonck,

T. Lerut, M. Demedts



**EUROPEAN
RESPIRATORY
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European Respiratory Monograph

Surgery for Non-Neoplastic Disorders of the Chest: a Clinical Update

Edited by

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Preface

Diseases of the chest are numerous and a multidisciplinary approach by the chest physician and thoracic surgeon is often required, not only in the management of chest malignancies, but also in the treatment of non-neoplastic disorders of the chest. Furthermore, many advances and improvements are put forward in the overall management of patients with advanced lung disease; besides lung transplantation, volume reduction surgery is reported as an alternative surgical option for emphysema patients which may delay, or even preclude the need for transplant.

Management of suppurative lung and pleural infections is a challenging problem in clinical practice; classical surgery stands besides thoracoscopic treatment. The frequency of thoracic injuries in trauma victims forms another challenge for the chest physician and thoracic surgeon considering that trauma ranks, at present, only behind cardiovascular disease and cancer. Although disorders of the trachea are relatively uncommon problems that rarely present in routine practice, successful outcomes require judgment in selecting suitable patients and correct timing of surgery, as well as careful determination of the extent of surgery required.

The role of surgery in many of these non-neoplastic disorders is extensively discussed in this issue of the *European Respiratory Monograph*, largely based on discussions and overview reports presented during an international symposium in 2003 organised by the Guest Editors. I, therefore, would like to thank the Guest Editors and the contributors, an international and multidisciplinary group of experienced clinicians, for their generous contributions to this issue of the *European Respiratory Monograph*.

E.F.M. Wouters
Editor in Chief

INTRODUCTION

G. Verleden, D. Van Raemdonck, T. Lerut, M. Demedts

The aim of this *European Respiratory Monograph* is to provide a synthesis and update of the indications and results of thoracic surgery for nonmalignant disorders.

Over the last few years, there have indeed been tremendous innovations regarding aspects of thoracic surgery for non-neoplastic disorders of the chest. Especially the field of surgery for emphysema has provided us with a lot of new treatment options, not only lung transplantation, but also lung volume reduction surgery (LVRS) and great efforts have been put into the development of new endoscopic modalities for LVRS. Also the management of suppurative lung and pleural infections has evolved, where classical surgery stands besides the pulmonologist's thoracoscopic treatment. Surgery for congenital bronchopulmonary disorders, extrapulmonary function-improving surgery and the treatment of tracheal and bronchial rupture all deserve renewed attention, because of new insights into their surgical or conservative management.

An international symposium and meeting on "Surgery for non-neoplastic disorders of the chest" was organised by the Dept of Pulmonary Diseases of the University Hospital Gasthuisberg at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium, on 20–22 March, 2003. The purpose was to provide a balanced update of the above mentioned issues, with particular focus on two aspects of lung transplantation: chronic rejection and bronchiolitis obliterans on the one hand, and strategies to prevent and treat reperfusion ischaemia of the donor lung and to decrease organ shortage on the other hand. Some 35 clinical experts and basic researchers in these two fields from all over Europe were gathered for 3 days in Leuven to prepare the present publication. They participated in one of the two working groups (the first on chronic rejection and bronchiolitis obliterans, the second on prevention and treatment of reperfusion and the modalities to decrease the donor organ shortage). Each working group was assigned the task to produce overview reports on these topics. In addition, selected reviews were commissioned on the above mentioned issues.

This symposium was accredited as a "European School of Respiratory Medicine" seminar, and was generously sponsored by GlaxoSmithKline, Belgium, in the framework of the "GSK Chair of Respiratory Pharmacology" attributed to G.M. Verleden.

We are very grateful to E.F.M. Wouters, editor of the *European Respiratory Monograph*, for granting us the privilege of publishing this symposium as a *European Respiratory Monograph*.