H. Hildmann, H. Sudhoff · Middle Ear Surgery
Henning Hildmann · Holger Sudhoff

Middle Ear Surgery

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With 165 Figures in 182 Parts and 9 Tables

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During the past 20 years, the ENT Department of the Ruhr University, Bochum, has been, under the leadership of Professor Henning Hildmann, an important centre for the teaching of otosurgery. Furthermore, during this time Bochum Clinic has become, mainly due to the efforts of Holger Sudhoff, a major focal point for otological research. A combination of two such eminent ear surgeons and their colleagues is a guarantee for an informative and inspiring book on ear surgery.

In Bochum Clinic, 17 Ear and Temporal Bone Surgery Courses have taken place over the years, each course with an attendance of 60–80 pupils from over the world. I had the privilege to be one of the teachers on these courses and was able to follow the outstanding surgery of the course leaders, Henning Hildmann and Jan Helms, both pupils of Dietrich Plester. It is therefore fitting that the book is mainly based on the ideas and techniques of this pioneering ear surgeon.

The book is divided into 34 chapters, most of which are written by Henning Hildmann or Holger Sudhoff. The remaining chapters are written by the teachers of the course at Bochum – all experts in their specialist topics: Alexander Rauchfuss, Jürgen Lautermann, Martin Scholz, Sergije Jovanovic, Matthew Yung and, finally, Stefan Dazert, who is the new chairman of Bochum Clinic and the new Director of the Bochum Ear and Temporal Bone Surgery Courses.

The many chapters on surgical methods are well written and easy to understand, even for beginners in otosurgery. These chapters are illustrated with many beautiful, clear and realistic colour illustrations. Most of them do not need a special explanation in the text. The surgical chapters are enhanced by chapters on preoperative evaluation, on „when not to do surgery“ and on postoperative treatment.

Even though the title of the book is *Middle Ear Surgery*, several topics outside the middle ear are included, making this book even more complete.

One cannot but admire Henning Hildmann and Holger Sudhoff who, besides their clinical and administrative work, surgery and teaching, research and international obligations, have produced this well-written and well-illustrated work during the course of one year. I believe that both young and established otosurgeons all over the world will enjoy and benefit from this book.

*Mirko Tos, Professor Emeritus of Otolaryngology
University of Copenhagen, Denmark*
Preface

This book aims to give the young surgeon a step-by-step introduction to middle ear surgery, and we hope that the experienced surgeon will also find ideas and suggestions which may improve routine surgery and serve as a basis for discussion. A systematic approach is provided to frequent otological operations. Procedures in surgery of the ear canal, acute and chronic middle ear diseases, otosclerosis, cochlear implantation and vertigo are explained step-by-step to acquaint the beginner with the surgical techniques which have proven to give good results.

The book is mainly based on the ideas and techniques developed by Dietrich Plester, who had a major impact on the development of middle ear surgery. His secret of time efficient and successful surgery was based on a thorough preoperative assessment of the case, counselling of the patient to set realistic expectations, economic use of a few instruments, tender treatment of the tissue and the use of standardized procedures without being too rigid. This approach to surgery is not an unrealistic ideal, but it is teachable and learnable for a normally gifted surgeon. The principles were published in the German literature (by Plester, Hildmann, and Steinbach) 15 years ago. In the meantime our experience has grown. Jan Helms must especially be mentioned for the numerous courses and otologic events we have conducted together. Indeed many of his ideas have contributed to this book. We thank our national and international friends and colleagues, as well as participants of workshops, roundtables and conferences for valuable ideas, hints and criticism. We thank the teachers of our workshops and hosts in centres in many parts of the world. Therefore the principles presented here are the fruits of acquired surgical and clinical knowledge over time. This is a surgical textbook; nevertheless it should be remembered that a basic knowledge of clinical pathology and pathophysiology is necessary to understand the causes of failures. We thank Steinbach, Tos, Michaels, Behrend and many others for their teachings. Two chapters do not directly follow the concept of this book. A chapter on laser surgery by an experienced specialist and a chapter on cartilage tympanoplasty were included because these techniques are under discussion at the present time and may be of importance in the future.

Successful middle ear surgery, regardless of technique, requires intensive training on temporal bones, surgical training under the observation of an experienced surgeon, and permanent continuous education until retirement.
Conferences, workshops and visits to other centres are necessary. Surgical manuals provide additional ideas. Especially we want to mention the excellent compilation of otosurgical techniques by Mirko Tos.

We are very grateful to Harald Konopatzki, who provided us with the excellent illustrations in this book. We wish also to express our sincere gratitude to Dr. Andre Gurr for his excellent help with the assembly of the DVD. We also thank the publishers for their substantial help, support and patience.

We hope that our book will serve as an aid to learning the techniques of middle ear surgery and will provide a systematic and comprehensive approach to the subject for all surgeons involved in otologic surgery.

Henning Hildmann, Holger Sudhoff
Bochum, Germany
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