ENDONASAL ENDOSCOPIC SURGERY OF SKULL BASE TUMORS: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH


In recent decades, there has been increasing utilization of endoscopic techniques to approach skull base tumors. These approaches, although complex, provide safe and effective access to the anterior, middle, and posterior cranial fossa.

The recently published first edition book entitled Endonasal Endoscopic Surgery of Skull Base Tumors: An Interdisciplinary Approach was edited by the late Professor Wolfgang Draf and other world renowned experts in endoscopic skull base surgery. Dr. Draf was well known for his many contributions to the field of endonasal skull base surgery, including systematic descriptions of approaches to the frontal sinus (Draf type I and II drainage procedures). He also believed in the importance of a multidisciplinary team to maximize the expertise in individual fields and ultimately lead to the most successful outcomes. This belief has led to the true nature and strength of this book: interdisciplinary understanding and management of skull base tumors. Surgeons, oncologists, radiologists, and oncologists of the head and neck and brain will all find this text as a useful resource in building or enhancing a skull base practice.

The book has 15 chapters written by experts in their respective fields, including otolaryngology – head and neck surgery, neurosurgery, and neuroradiology. The beginning chapters offer very thorough descriptions of the complex anatomy and pathology of the skull base, including many excellent diagrams and photographs, notably more detailed than can be found in a standard surgical atlas. A distinctive aspect of the book is a comprehensive chapter on state-of-the-art imaging assessment and endovascular/interventional treatment of multiple skull base tumor pathologies. This is followed by a chapter on the management of the internal carotid artery in skull base surgery, offering criteria for patient selection, principles of preoperative and postoperative management, and descriptions of operative techniques from a neurosurgical perspective.

Additionally, there is an interesting chapter outlining a thoughtful approach for building a multidisciplinary skull base team and the delivery of integrated care.

The middle and later chapters outline detailed endoscopic surgical approaches. These chapters are divided into preoperative work-up, surgical technique, and complications, with helpful endoscopic photographs as well as pertinent radiographic images. Several sections are then dedicated to interdisciplinary “tumor specific strategies” for various skull base pathologies, including surgical pearls and pitfalls. Surgical outcomes are reported from 2 leading skull base centers along with other pertinent literature/references.

In conclusion, this text provides up-to-date information on a continuously evolving specialty. It sets itself apart in many ways, and is an excellent resource to practitioners of all levels who wish to have a current understanding of the interdisciplinary management of skull base tumors.

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