Book Review

Sabiston Textbook of Surgery

The Biological Basis of Modern Surgical Practice 19th Edition 2012

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Publisher: Saunders, an imprint of Elsevier Inc.

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The 19th edition of the Sabiston Textbook of Surgery includes fundamental medical knowledge which is tremendous useful to all. It begins, as is traditional, with a history of surgery and ethics, and then gives an overview of molecular and cellular biology before moving on to customary surgical tenets such as metabolic support and wound healing. Subsequent sections deal with perioperative management, trauma and transplantation and oncology, breast, endocrine, and abdominal procedures before dividing into surgery subspecialties such as head and neck, thoracic, vascular, urology and neurosurgery.

Additional to this edition are the latest developments in rapidly evolving areas such as minimally invasive surgery or tumor immunology and immunotherapy. New chapters also reflect the current emphasis on surgical safety, new technologies, and unconventional civilian disasters. In general this surgical text book is complete and thorough. The diagrams are brilliant demonstrations. The color photographs are usually superb although some black and white x-ray pictures are not sharp as they should be. Other criticisms include the amount of information that has not been retained from the 17th and 18th editions.

However, we still judge the overall presentation as excellent. Furthermore, in this digital age, the tremendous value of this edition of the Sabiston is that it includes access to the e-book which can be read on a Kindle (conveniently portable in your lab coat) and is even easier to navigate and view using an iPad.