PERCUTANEOUS SURGERY OF
THE UPPER URINARY TRACT
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Renal pathologies continue to be a major preoccupation, affecting a significant number of patients.

This book, *Percutaneous Surgery of the Upper Urinary Tract: Handbook of Endourology*, dedicated to percutaneous procedures for the management of renal pathology, is the fifth volume of the *Handbook of Endourology* series, following those dedicated to the urethra, prostate, urinary bladder, and ureter, respectively.

As in the previous volumes, the purpose was to produce a stimulating and up-to-date handbook that will captivate the reader with a mainly pictorial interpretation of technical advancements and innovations, with a number of interesting improvements, based on a vast experience (more than 6000 percutaneous approaches from our experience). This kind of approach is nowadays challenged by the retrograde flexible approach and SWL, these interactions being also described. However, PCNL represents one of the most important treatment modalities in renal lithiasis. All of these methods are minimally invasive and present a significantly lower morbidity and mortality than open surgery, being very common in the practice of the authors. This volume contains hundreds of best-quality images obtained during many years of urological practice in different areas of renal pathology.

The volume begins with some historic data, which will support the reader in understanding the evolution of the instruments and techniques. The endoscopes, energy sources, and ancillary instruments used for percutaneous procedures are then described with all their particularities and also presented in illustrations. A chapter is dedicated to percutaneous nephrostomy, a simple yet efficient procedure used worldwide.

The next chapters are dedicated to the percutaneous approach of renal lithiasis, renal tumors, pyelocaliceal diverticula, renal cysts, pyeloureteral junction stenosis, and renal or perirenal abscesses. The new developments in the field of percutaneous approach (and especially the miniaturization—mini-PCNL, micro-PCNL, ultramini-PCNL) are described. There is also an ample chapter dedicated to the antegrade approach of ureteral pathology.

As before, the text is structured into sections addressing the indications for every procedure, the limitations and contraindications, techniques, results, and potential complications. The published data regarding the outcomes of each procedure are evaluated and analyzed.

The content of this volume is meant to bring the reader up-to-date with technological advances, the authors have attempted to complete the clinical experience with basic science, translational research, and clinical outcomes concerning renal pathology. With hundreds of full-color images, the analysis of a vast experience, and the most modern assessment of techniques applied in renal lithiasis, this book will offer a real support for every practitioner in general, and for every urologist in particular.

**Editor**

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