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Foreword



With the aging of the U.S. population, the number of elderly patients requiring surgery continues to grow. This segment of our population has its own unique set of needs; surgery in the elderly is associated with both a higher morbidity and mortality but also more nuanced considerations regarding appropriateness and value. In this issue of *Current Problems in Surgery*, Dr. David McFadden and his colleagues from the University of Connecticut in Farmington have written a masterful overview on this topic entitled, "Surgical Care of the Geriatric Patient." They begin with a discussion of the preoperative evaluation of the geriatric patient and follow by addressing the specifics of postoperative management in these patients. Geriatric anesthetic management is then covered in significant detail. Subsequent sections are focused on colorectal surgery, emergency operations, radical cystectomy and urinary diversion, breast cancer, hepatobiliary-pancreatic surgery, gastric cancer, and trauma management in the geriatric population. The authors are experts in their fields and present the topics in a balanced fashion with a thorough review of the literature. This superb review should become a frequently cited addition to the literature on this complex topic and a resource for all caregivers involved in the care of the geriatric patient.

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