

Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

Current Problems in Surgery

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/cpsurg

Foreword



Although inguinal hernia repair continues to be among our most common surgical procedures, the most appropriate management remains controversial. In fact, with the evolution of technology and surgical approaches, new areas of debate continue to arise. In this issue of *Current Problems in Surgery*, Dr. Bryan Richmond and his colleagues from the University of West Virginia in Charleston and the University of Kentucky in Lexington address these areas of controversy in a thought-provoking perspective on this topic entitled, "Current Strategies for the Management of Inguinal Hernia: What are the Available Approaches and the Key Considerations?" Beginning with a historical perspective, they then identify five key metrics that they believe should be applied to evaluate the various techniques. They subsequently apply these metrics to the three main approaches to hernia repair: open, laparoscopic, and robotic techniques. First, they address the choices from the perspective of recurrence rates. Next, they consider each approach in the context of postoperative pain, both acute and chronic. They move on to an intriguing analysis of cost considerations. A subsequent section examines the learning curve for each of the techniques. They conclude with a detailed consideration of specific clinical scenarios that favor one technique over another. Their arguments are convincing and provide an unique framework to examine the issues. This superb treatise is a significant addition to the literature on a subject that continues to provoke considerable passion from clinicians.

Stanley W. Ashley, MD
Editor in Chief