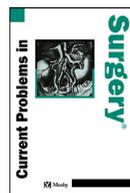


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Foreword



Gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) affects up to 20% of the United States population and there is evidence that this number continues to grow. Despite an enormous amount of attention and a number of well-designed clinical studies, there continue to be differences of opinion over virtually every aspect of this disease and particularly its treatment. In this issue of *Current Problems in Surgery*, Dr. Dmitry Oleynikov from the University of Nebraska Medical Center and his colleagues from around the country bring us a step closer to understanding this disease with a monograph on this topic entitled, "Novel Therapies for Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease." This thought-provoking and balanced perspective begins with a discussion of the physiology and pathogenesis of GERD, including epidemiology and risk factors. Diagnosis is subsequently covered in significant detail. They move on to a detailed focus on various treatments, including a thorough discussion of the controversies. Endoluminal therapies, including Esophyx, the Medigus Ultrasonic Surgical Endostapler, and Stretta are each addressed. They conclude with a section on surgical management, including both fundoplication and Linx. Outcome data are presented in a thoughtful review. Their arguments are convincing and do much to clarify the complex decisions needed in patients with this difficult disorder. This superb treatise is a significant addition to the literature on a subject that continues to provoke considerable passion from clinicians in all specialties managing these patients.

Stanley W. Ashley, MD
Editor in Chief