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Foreword



Improvements in newborn medicine have permitted the survival of more and more premature neonates. This progress unfortunately has been accompanied by an increase in the incidence of diseases of immaturity; among the most devastating of these is necrotizing enterocolitis. In this issue of *Current Problems in Surgery*, Drs. Jamie Knell, Sam Han, Tom Jaksic, and Biren Modi from the Boston Children's Hospital have written a comprehensive overview on this topic entitled, "Current Status of Necrotizing Enterocolitis." They begin with a discussion of epidemiology. They then address recent advances in our understanding of the pathophysiology of the disorder and how this has impacted efforts to prevent the condition. Subsequent sections cover presentation and diagnosis. Tools for medical management are described in significant detail. Surgical approaches are then elucidated followed by discussions of intestinal perforation and necrotizing enterocolitis totalis. They finish by providing current data on outcomes, including the impact on the child's subsequent development. 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 neonate.

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