

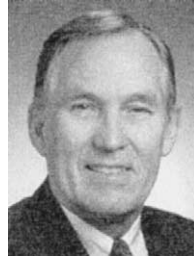


Preface

Urethral reconstruction



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Guest Editors

Urethral reconstruction for both congenital and acquired etiologies remains a challenge for most urological surgeons. High success rates depend on the use of adequate tissues for reconstruction and appropriately trained surgeons. The difficulty in achieving adequate results is best represented by the many articles published each year that attempt to explore new reconstructive techniques. Since 1965, there have been well over 3500 papers published that address the surgical correction of hypospadias and urethral strictures; this illustrates the challenges and difficulties involved in the repair of these anomalies. Considerable progress in the surgical correction of ure-

thral defects has been made over the past 50 years due to advances in microsurgical instrumentation, optical magnification, and new reconstructive techniques.

In this issue of the *Urologic Clinics of North America*, a panel of distinguished authors, all leaders in the field of urethral reconstruction, have addressed various aspects of urethral surgery as it applies to congenital and acquired abnormalities. This monograph provides an update on urethral reconstruction, as well as detailed practical information for managing patients with urethral disease.

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