

# Preface

## GI Clinics of North America



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*Guest Editor*

These are exciting times in esophageal diseases. A variety of new diagnostic tests and therapeutic approaches are now available. We even have relatively new diseases of the esophagus, such as eosinophilic esophagitis, which is currently the focus of much clinical and research interest.

Given the recent advances in esophageal diseases, the time is right for a comprehensive update in this area. An impressive array of internationally recognized experts has been assembled to synthesize for you new developments in the field of esophageal diseases. The first article in this issue provides an overview of our current understanding of new endoscopic imaging modalities and their current role in the diagnosis of esophageal diseases. The next two articles put into perspective the complex and rapidly evolving area of esophageal physiologic testing. Excellent and comprehensive reviews are provided of the current “tools of the trade” including high-resolution manometry, impedance testing, and the various approaches to diagnose gastroesophageal reflux. Some of these new diagnostic tests have provided us with a better understanding of some of the nuances of an old disease, namely achalasia. Much of the pioneering work of the Northwestern group is summarized in the next article that covers the many nuances of the modern approach to achalasia.

Gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) remains one of the most commonly encountered problems in clinical practice. This is first addressed in an article that provides an overview of the pathophysiology of GERD as well as the epidemiologic factors that may be contributing to the increasing prevalence of this disorder. This is then followed by a series of articles examining atypical manifestations of reflux disease, and current medical and surgical approaches to the management of GERD. These latter two articles clearly point out some of the problems inherent in both medical and surgical therapy of GERD.

The incidence of esophageal adenocarcinoma continues to increase at an alarming rate. Our current understanding of the precursor lesion, Barrett’s esophagus, is reviewed comprehensively, followed by discussions of modern medical and surgical approaches to esophageal cancer. Lastly, no update on esophageal diseases would be

complete without a review of our understanding of eosinophilic esophagitis, a disease for which there is much we need to learn.

The authors of each of these articles have been picked based on their recognized expertise and provide both North American and European perspectives to esophageal diseases. I would like to thank all of the authors for their contributions to this issue of *Gastroenterology Clinics of North America*. I hope you enjoy reading their contributions as much as I have.

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