

Preface
Quality of Life After Thoracic Surgery



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Guest Editor

Traditionally, surgical mortality and major morbidity have been the standard outcome parameters in studies involving chest operations. Although these data continue to provide important information, with the advances in anesthetic and surgical techniques and technology, mortality and major morbidity figures alone are increasingly inadequate in meeting the growing needs for detailed comparison of new surgical approaches and rising expectations from patients of surgery.

This issue of *Thoracic Surgery Clinics of North America* focuses on the various aspects of post-operative quality of life after thoracic surgery. The carefully chosen topics cover preoperative patient counseling and risk assessment; preoperative optimization of lung function; a critical appraisal of the different health-related quality-of-life instruments currently in use; impairment of pulmonary, cardiovascular, and shoulder functions after lung resection; chronic pain syndrome; quality of life after different procedures—lung resection, esophageal surgery, lung

volume reduction surgery, and lung transplantation; and the impact of functional impairment such as chronic respiratory failure and loss of work on the patients, their families, and society.

The articles in this issue have been written by renowned experts in their fields. I would like to thank all the authors for their contributions, which I trust the readers will find both useful and educational. I would also like to thank our consulting editor, Dr. Mark Ferguson, for the privilege and opportunity to put this issue together.

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