Shock Wave Lithotripsy 2

URINARY AND BILIARY LITHOTRIPSY

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Preface

In the years since its development in West Germany and particularly since its arrival in the United States, extracorporeal shock wave lithotripsy (ESWL*) has become the treatment of choice for most cases of urinary lithiasis. The first shock wave lithotripsy patient in the U.S.was treated with a Dornier HM3 in February of 1984 at the Methodist Hospital of Indiana. In response to the great enthusiasm generated by this new treatment modality, the following year the MHI presented its first symposium on shock wave lithotripsy. Each year the meeting generated more and more interest. Following the 1988 symposium, the presentations were published in a book entitled **Shock Wave Lithotripsy: State of the Art**.

Following on the heels of the success of kidney stone treatment with ESWL, the new field of biliary lithotripsy rapidly was gaining momentum. In response to the great interest generated by this additional application of the technology, the 1989 meeting focused special attention on this new method of treating gallstones. Methodist Hospital's 5th Symposium on Shock Wave Lithotripsy, which was presented in March of 1989, had the largest attendance ever, with over 600 physicians from 42 states and 20 countries.

The publication of the proceedings of this meeting was made possible by generous educational grants from Dornier Medical Systems, Inc., Marietta, Georgia, and the Methodist Hospital of Indiana.

The primary purpose of the publication of the proceedings of this symposium is educational. Because technology is evolving so rapidly, it is our hope that the publication of this material will be of real benefit to those interested in the various aspects of treatment with shock wave lithotripsy, including basic and clinical research, treatment data from around the world, and the long-term results of treatments. The 1989 meeting featured lively debates on several controversial issues, and those debates are included in this publication.

To all authors of these presentations, we extend our thanks for providing such excellent material.

The rapid publication of this material would not have been possible without the devoted efforts of our editorial consultant, Mary Beth Moster, and our energetic and efficient secretary, Joyce Buckler.

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