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# Prediction and Management of Severe Acute Pancreatitis



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Chris E. Forsmark • Timothy B. Gardner  
Editors

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 Springer

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## Preface

Severe acute pancreatitis (SAP) is a devastating disease affecting thousands of patients annually and resulting in substantial morbidity, mortality, and healthcare costs. In fact, acute pancreatitis is currently the most common hospital discharge diagnosis for gastrointestinal disease in the United States. While most patients have mild pancreatitis and recover, the high morbidity and a mortality rate of 20 % make SAP among the most lethal of all gastrointestinal diseases.

In the last 20 years extensive progress has been made in identifying and treating SAP. These advances include more standardized definitions of disease, more careful long-term follow-up of patient outcomes, and the beginnings of evidence-based therapies to prevent mortality and severe complications. Randomized, controlled trials are increasingly being performed to evaluate interventions in this disease, and consensus about definitions and therapies are being offered by major medical societies. Given the significant pathologic burden and improved diagnostic and therapeutic modalities, it is an important time for a text on severe acute pancreatitis.

This textbook provides a comprehensive review of the subject and serves as an essential resource for practicing gastroenterologists, surgeons, radiologists, intensivists, hospitalists, pathologists, and trainees. It details the recent consensus guidelines updating the definition of pancreatitis and its complications. It summarizes the current prediction models for severe acute pancreatitis, including laboratory, clinical, and imaging parameters. Evidence-based guidelines of medical and surgical management of both the hospitalized and discharged patient are described, with recommendations from expert authors pertaining to various clinical situations. Finally, complications of acute pancreatitis and their management, including the use of cutting-edge minimally invasive therapies, are discussed.

We offer our deep gratitude to our colleagues who authored chapters for this text. Their devotion to the field of pancreatology and their determination to improve the outcomes of patients afflicted with acute pancreatitis are inspiring. In editing this work, we were consistently reminded of how fortunate we are to collaborate with such dedicated clinicians and researchers.

We would also like to thank our editors at Springer, specifically Diane Lamsback, whose patience and guidance were critical in completing this book.

We hope you find the following text enriching and rewarding as we continue to make progress in the management and treatment of this difficult disease.

Gainesville, FL, USA  
Lebanon, NH, USA

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