
Clinical Algorithms in General Surgery

Salvatore Docimo Jr. • Eric M. Pauli
Editors

Clinical Algorithms in General Surgery

A Practical Guide

 Springer

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Salvatore Docimo, Jr., DO, MS

My surgical career has been the epitome of dumb luck. I have had the good fortune to train under and with amazing surgeons, I work with dynamic colleagues, and I get to train eager students, residents, and fellows. I would like to thank all those individuals who have contributed to my success, especially those who were willing to share their expertise through these algorithms. Thanks in particular to the three Jeffs (you can rank yourselves in order), Yuri, Mike, Randy, Peter, Ann, Evan, Abraham, Lou, and Chris.

Eric M. Pauli, MD

Preface

With the rapid expansion of surgical knowledge, it has never been more challenging to organize and articulate a simple and safe surgical plan. Traditional textbooks, in an attempt to keep pace with the growth of surgical science, have become encyclopedic reference books. Young surgeons, with a finite amount of time to pore over such tomes and an increasing load of clinical responsibilities, often search for educational materials that offer basic, safe principles of general surgery. For the more seasoned surgeon, a brief review of vital surgical topics does not require the comprehensive perspective offered by traditional surgical textbooks.

We created this book of surgical algorithms in order to meet the needs of both of these groups of surgeons. The goal of an algorithm is to create a set of rules, permit data processing, and establish a solution in the most efficient manner. An algorithmic approach to surgical scenarios allows for concise organization of clinical information, application of basic and safe principles, and, finally, formation of an unambiguous surgical solution. The algorithms are also accompanied with a synopsis to provide a more comprehensive review, if desired.

Students, residents, and surgeons will find the algorithms concise enough to read to completion in moments of spare time. For the surgical trainee, they should provide a foundation upon which future learning can be built. For the more senior surgeon, they will provide an up-to-date overview of commonly encountered topics from the “20,000 foot view.” For chief residents and recent graduates, we hope this book enables crystallization of their knowledge base as they prepare for the American Board of Surgery certifying examination.

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Contents

Part I Skin and Soft Tissue

- 1 Management of Cutaneous Melanoma** 3
Julie A. DiSano and Colette R. Pameijer
- 2 Basal Cell Carcinoma** 5
Julie A. DiSano and Colette R. Pameijer
- 3 Squamous Cell Carcinoma** 7
Julie A. DiSano and Colette R. Pameijer
- 4 Management of Soft Tissue Sarcoma** 9
Julie A. DiSano and Colette R. Pameijer
- 5 Necrotizing Soft Tissue Infection** 11
Julie A. DiSano and Colette R. Pameijer

Part II Head and Neck

- 6 Management of Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Oropharynx** 17
Laila Siddique, Tom Shokri, and Neerav Goyal
- 7 Evaluation of Neck Mass** 21
Tom Shokri, Laila Siddique, and Neerav Goyal
- 8 Evaluation of an Enlarged Cervical Lymph Node** 25
Laila Siddique, Tom Shokri, and Neerav Goyal
- 9 Salivary Gland Tumors** 29
Tom Shokri, Laila Siddique, and Neerav Goyal

Part III Thoracic

- 10 Massive Hemoptysis** 35
Henry Tannous, Joanna Chikwe, and Maroun B. Yammine
- 11 Mediastinal Masses** 39
Henry Tannous, Joanna Chikwe, and Maroun B. Yammine
- 12 Tracheal Stenosis** 43
Henry Tannous, Joanna Chikwe, and Maroun B. Yammine

13	Incidental Lung Nodule	47
	Henry Tannous, Joanna Chikwe, and Maroun B. Yammine	
14	Management of Lung Cancer	51
	Scott C. Tiedebohl and Matthew D. Taylor	
15	Management of Empyema	55
	Shannon R. Kotch and Matthew D. Taylor	
16	Management of Spontaneous Pneumothorax	59
	Shannon R. Kotch and Matthew D. Taylor	
17	Thoracoabdominal Aortic Aneurysm	63
	Albert G. Pavalonis and Anil Hingorani	
Part IV Breast		
18	Nipple Discharge	69
	Anjali R. Thawani and Lillian M. Erdahl	
19	Breast Mass Evaluation	73
	Anjali R. Thawani and Lillian M. Erdahl	
20	Ductal Carcinoma In Situ	77
	Anjali R. Thawani and Lillian M. Erdahl	
21	Lobular Carcinoma In Situ	81
	Anjali R. Thawani and Lillian M. Erdahl	
22	Enlarged Axillary Lymph Node	85
	Zeynep Bostanci and Laura Kruper	
23	Metastatic Breast Cancer	87
	Zeynep Bostanci and Laura Kruper	
24	Recurrent Breast Cancer	91
	Zeynep Bostanci and Laura Kruper	
25	Paget's Disease	95
	Zeynep Bostanci and Laura Kruper	
26	Locoregional Recurrence of Breast Cancer	97
	Jessica C. Gooch and Freya Schnabel	
27	Metastatic Breast Cancer	101
	Jessica C. Gooch and Freya Schnabel	
28	Inflammatory Breast Cancer	105
	Jessica C. Gooch and Freya Schnabel	
29	Breast Reconstruction	109
	Jessica C. Gooch and Freya Schnabel	
30	Management of Male Breast Cancer	113
	Jessica C. Gooch and Freya Schnabel	

Part V Esophagus

- 31 Management of Esophageal Motility Disorders** 119
Anthony R. Tascone and Caitlin A. Halbert
- 32 Management of Achalasia** 123
Anthony R. Tascone and Caitlin A. Halbert
- 33 Barrett’s Esophagitis** 127
Caitlin A. Halbert and Anthony R. Tascone
- 34 Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease** 129
Caitlin A. Halbert and Anthony R. Tascone
- 35 Hiatal Hernia** 133
Wanda Lam, Ruel Neupane, and Jeffrey M. Marks
- 36 Esophageal Carcinoma** 135
Ruel Neupane, Wanda Lam, and Jeffrey M. Marks
- 37 Esophageal Perforation** 139
Ruel Neupane, Wanda Lam, and Jeffrey M. Marks
- 38 Acidic and Basic Injuries** 143
Wanda Lam, Ruel Neupane, and Jeffrey M. Marks

Part VI Stomach and Duodenum

- 39 Gastric Ulcer Management** 149
Maria S. Altieri and Konstantinos Spaniolas
- 40 Duodenal Ulcer Management** 153
Maria S. Altieri and Konstantinos Spaniolas
- 41 Complications of Peptic Ulcer Disease** 157
Carl J. Dickler and Konstantinos Spaniolas
- 42 Management of Recurrent Peptic Ulcer Disease** 161
Carl J. Dickler and Konstantinos Spaniolas
- 43 Management of Gastric Cancer** 165
Christina L. Wolchok and Georgios V. Georgakis
- 44 Management of Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumors** 169
Igor G. Elyash
- 45 Management of Upper Gastrointestinal Hemorrhage** 171
Igor G. Elyash

Part VII Small Bowel

- 46 Small Bowel Obstruction** 175
Ryan M. Juza and Vamsi V. Alli
- 47 Small Bowel Tumors** 181
Vamsi V. Alli and Ryan M. Juza

48	Management of Small Bowel Neuroendocrine Tumors	185
	Michele A. Riordon and Calvin H. L. Law	
49	Management of Enterocutaneous Fistulas	191
	Maria Michailidou	
50	Management of Crohn's Disease	195
	Igor G. Elyash	
51	Management of Postoperative Ileus	197
	Igor G. Elyash	
52	Management of Gallstone Ileus	199
	Igor G. Elyash	
53	Management of Short Bowel Syndrome	201
	Igor G. Elyash	
Part VIII Large Bowel		
54	Management of Lower Gastrointestinal Bleeding	205
	Audrey S. Kulaylat and David B. Stewart Jr.	
55	Management of Diverticulitis	209
	Audrey S. Kulaylat and David B. Stewart Jr.	
56	Management of Large Bowel Obstruction	213
	Audrey S. Kulaylat and David B. Stewart Jr.	
57	Management of Colonic Pseudo-Obstruction	217
	Audrey S. Kulaylat and David B. Stewart Jr.	
58	Management of Colonic Volvulus	221
	Audrey S. Kulaylat and David B. Stewart Jr.	
59	Appendicitis	225
	Kristen T. Crowell and Evangelos Messaris	
60	Ulcerative Colitis	229
	Kristen T. Crowell and Evangelos Messaris	
61	Crohn's Colitis	233
	Maria Michailidou and Evangelos Messaris	
62	Ischemic Colitis	237
	William Sangster and Evangelos Messaris	
63	<i>Clostridium difficile</i> Colitis	241
	Kristen T. Crowell and Evangelos Messaris	
64	Hereditary Colorectal Cancer Syndromes	243
	Emily Huang and Michael F. McGee	
65	Colorectal Polyps	251
	Emily Huang and Michael F. McGee	
66	Colon Cancer	255
	Emily Huang and Michael F. McGee	

Part IX Rectum and Anus

67 Rectal Prolapse 263
 Quinton Morrow Hatch and Eric K. Johnson

68 Solitary Rectal Ulcer Syndrome 269
 John Kuckelman and Eric K. Johnson

69 Rectal Cancer 275
 Quinton Morrow Hatch and Eric K. Johnson

70 Rectovaginal Fistula 283
 John Kuckelman and Eric K. Johnson

71 Management of Hemorrhoids 289
 Matthew Z. Wilson and Joseph R. Notaro

72 Management of Anal Fissure 293
 Matthew Z. Wilson and Kirsten Bass Wilkins

73 Management of Perianal Abscess and Fistula-in-Ano..... 297
 Matthew Z. Wilson and Bertram T. Chinn

74 Management of Anal Cancer 301
 Matthew Z. Wilson and Kirsten Bass Wilkins

75 Management of Fecal Incontinence..... 303
 Matthew Z. Wilson and Suraj Alva

Part X Liver

76 Evaluation of Liver Nodule 307
 Katelin A. Mirkin and Niraj J. Gusani

77 Cystic Diseases of the Liver 313
 Laura M. Enomoto and Niraj J. Gusani

78 Management of Benign Liver Masses..... 319
 Katelin A. Mirkin and Niraj J. Gusani

79 Hepatic Abscess..... 323
 Jasvinder Singh and Niraj J. Gusani

80 Malignant Liver Tumors (Metastatic Liver Disease)..... 327
 Neal M. Mineyev, Karla M. Chaffee, and Joyce Wong

81 Diagnosis and Management of Hepatocellular Carcinoma..... 331
 Neal M. Mineyev, Karla M. Chaffee, and Joyce Wong

82 Diagnosis and Management of Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis 335
 Neal M. Mineyev, Karla M. Chaffee, and Joyce Wong

83 Portal Hypertension and Shunting 339
 Neal M. Mineyev, Karla M. Chaffee, and Joyce Wong

Part XI Biliary

- 84 Acute Cholecystitis and Biliary Colic** 345
Chanak J. Chantachote and Samer Sbayi
- 85 Acalculous Cholecystitis** 349
Chanak J. Chantachote and Samer Sbayi
- 86 Postcholecystectomy** 351
Chanak J. Chantachote and Samer Sbayi
- 87 Management of Postcholecystectomy Cholangitis** 355
Joel VanderVelde and Ross F. Goldberg
- 88 Management of Choledocholithiasis** 357
Joel VanderVelde and Ross F. Goldberg
- 89 Acute Cholangitis** 359
Joel Vandervelde and Ross F. Goldberg
- 90 Cholangiocarcinoma** 361
Zachary J. Senders, John B. Ammori, and Jeffrey M. Hardacre
- 91 Diagnosis and Management of Gallbladder Cancer** 365
Joshua L. Lyons, John B. Ammori, and Jeffrey M. Hardacre
- 92 Choledochal Cysts** 369
Shreya Gupta, Jeffrey M. Hardacre, and John B. Ammori
- 93 Cholecystectomy of the Pregnant Patient** 373
Avi Hameroff and Jaimey M. Pauli

Part XII Pancreas

- 94 Acute Pancreatitis** 379
Kayla M. Hartz and Jennifer Maranki
- 95 Chronic Pancreatitis** 383
Kayla M. Hartz and Jennifer Maranki
- 96 Pancreas Divisum** 387
Kayla M. Hartz and Jennifer Maranki
- 97 Walled-Off Pancreatic Fluid Collections** 391
Kayla M. Hartz and Jennifer Maranki
- 98 Periampullary Carcinoma** 395
Heidi N. Overton and Matthew J. Weiss
- 99 Management of Intraductal Papillary Mucinous Neoplasms** ... 399
Jonathan G. Sham and Matthew J. Weiss
- 100 Pancreatic Necrosis** 403
Ammar Asrar Javed and Matthew J. Weiss

Part XIII Spleen

- 101 Management of Splenic Abscess** 409
Andrew T. Bates and Michael G. Svestka
- 102 Atraumatic Indications for Splenectomy** 413
Maria S. Altieri and Andrew T. Bates

Part XIV Thyroid/Parathyroid

- 103 Hypothyroidism** 419
Lukasz Czerwonka
- 104 Hyperthyroidism** 423
Ewen Chao and Lukasz Czerwonka
- 105 Thyroiditis** 427
Lukasz Czerwonka
- 106 Goiter** 431
Lukasz Czerwonka
- 107 Thyroid Nodule** 435
Melissa Boltz
- 108 Thyroid Cancer** 439
Melissa Boltz
- 109 Hyperparathyroidism** 443
Melissa Boltz

Part XV Endocrine

- 110 Cushing's Syndrome and Disease** 449
Edwina Moore and Vikram D. Krishnamurthy
- 111 Primary Hyperaldosteronism (Conn's Syndrome)** 453
Iuliana Bobanga, Cassandre Bénay, and Vikram D. Krishnamurthy
- 112 Glucagonoma** 457
Talia Burneikis and Vikram D. Krishnamurthy
- 113 Management of Pheochromocytoma** 461
Hadley E. Ritter and Benjamin C. James
- 114 Management of Aldosteronoma** 465
Hadley E. Ritter and Benjamin C. James
- 115 Management of Gastrinoma** 469
Rachel E. Simpson and Benjamin C. James
- 116 Management of Insulinoma** 473
Rachel E. Simpson and Benjamin C. James

117 Management of Somatostatinoma	477
Rachel E. Simpson and Benjamin C. James	
118 Management of VIPoma	481
Rachel E. Simpson and Benjamin C. James	
Part XVI Pediatric	
119 Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia	487
Christopher J. McLaughlin, Rachel E. Hanke, and Robert E. Cilley	
120 Tracheoesophageal Fistula	491
Rachel E. Hanke, Morgan K. Moroi, and Robert E. Cilley	
121 Other Diaphragmatic Hernias: Late-Presenting Bochdalek Hernia, Morgagni Hernia, and Giant Hiatal Hernia of Infancy	495
Morgan K. Moroi, Christopher J. McLaughlin, and Robert E. Cilley	
122 Duodenal Obstruction in Newborns	499
Abdulraouf Y. Lamoshi, Sophia Abdulhai, and Todd A. Ponsky	
123 Small Intestinal Atresia	501
Abdulraouf Y. Lamoshi, Sophia Abdulhai, and Todd A. Ponsky	
124 Management of Malrotation	505
Sophia Abdulhai, Abdulraouf Y. Lamoshi, and Todd A. Ponsky	
125 Management of Imperforate Anus	509
Sophia Abdulhai and Aaron Garrison	
126 Hirschsprung Disease	513
Rachel E. Hanke, Morgan K. Moroi, and Kathryn Lynn Martin	
127 Pediatric Inguinal Hernia	517
Afif N. Kulaylat and Kathryn Lynn Martin	
128 Meconium Ileus	521
Kathryn Lynn Martin and Afif N. Kulaylat	
129 Pediatric Intussusception	525
Afif N. Kulaylat and Kathryn Lynn Martin	
130 Pyloric Stenosis	529
Dan W. Parrish, Jonathan H. DeAntonio, and David A. Lanning	
131 Necrotizing Enterocolitis	533
Jonathan H. DeAntonio, Dan W. Parrish, and David A. Lanning	

132 Omphalocele and Gastroschisis	537
Jonathan H. DeAntonio, Dan W. Parrish, and David A. Lanning	
133 Biliary Atresia	541
Dan W. Parrish, Jonathan H. DeAntonio, and David A. Lanning	
Part XVII Vascular	
134 Carotid Artery Stenosis	547
Ian Bailey and Faisal Aziz	
135 Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm	551
Erin K. Greenleaf and Faisal Aziz	
136 Ruptured Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm	555
Faisal Aziz	
137 Aortic Dissection	559
Katelynn Ferranti and Faisal Aziz	
138 Acute Lower Extremity Ischemia	565
Afsha Aurshina and Anil Hingorani	
139 Chronic Lower Extremity Ischemia	569
Afsha Aurshina and Anil Hingorani	
140 Intermittent Claudication	573
Afsha Aurshina and Anil Hingorani	
141 Acute Deep Venous Thrombosis	577
Afsha Aurshina and Anil Hingorani	
142 Management of Acute Mesenteric Ischemia	581
Josh Radtka	
143 Management of Chronic Mesenteric Ischemia	585
Josh Radtka	
144 Thoracic Outlet Syndrome	589
Tarik Z. Ali and Josh Radtka	
145 AV Shunt Complications	593
Josh Radtka	
Part XVIII Genitourinary	
146 Management of the Renal Mass	597
J. Chris Riney, Neil J. Kocher, and Matthew Kaag	
147 Prostate Cancer	601
Rosa Park and Matthew Kaag	
148 Management of Scrotal/Testicular Mass	605
Brian M. Blair and Matthew Kaag	

149	Diagnosis and Management of Fournier’s Gangrene	609
	Augustyna Gogoj and Matthew Kaag	
Part XIX Trauma		
150	Hypotension and Blunt Abdominal Trauma	615
	Cheyenne C. Sonntag and Steven R. Allen	
151	Traumatic Brain Injury	619
	Shannon R. Kotch and Steven R. Allen	
152	Penetrating Neck Trauma	623
	Alexis Lauria and Steven R. Allen	
153	Penetrating Chest Trauma	627
	Melissa Linskey and Steven R. Allen	
154	ED Thoracotomy	631
	Nathan R. Manley and George O. Maish III	
155	Blunt Chest Wall Trauma	633
	Nathan R. Manley and George O. Maish III	
156	Blunt Cardiac Injury	637
	Nathan R. Manley and George O. Maish III	
157	Deceleration Injury: Blunt Aortic Injury	641
	Nathan R. Manley and George O. Maish III	
158	Penetrating Abdominal Trauma	645
	Michael Smith and Fausto Vines	
159	Blunt Abdominal Trauma	649
	Michael Smith and Fausto Vines	
160	Management Algorithm for Acute and Chronic Diaphragmatic Injuries	653
	Elif Onursal and Fausto Vines	
161	Management of Traumatic Liver Injuries	657
	Melissa Amberger and Fausto Vines	
162	Management of Pancreatic Trauma	661
	Shreya Jammula and Eric H. Bradburn	
163	Management of Traumatic Splenic Injuries	665
	Eric H. Bradburn, Kameron Durante, and Shreya Jammula	
164	Management of Kidney and Ureter Injuries	669
	Eric H. Bradburn, Madison Morgan, and Danielle Von Nieda	
165	Urethral Trauma	675
	Cheyenne C. Sonntag and Susan MacDonald	
166	Pelvic Fractures	679
	Ryan M. Staszak and Lacey Jay Laufenberg	

167 Bladder Injuries	683
Ryan M. Staszak and Lacey Jay Laufenberg	
168 Rectal Injuries	687
Amanda E. Lee, Karima Fitzgerald, and Lacey Jay Laufenberg	
169 Extremity Compartment Syndrome	693
Karima Fitzgerald, Amanda E. Lee, and Lacey Jay Laufenberg	
Part XX Critical Care	
170 Management of Intracranial Hemorrhage	701
Ariel P. Santos	
171 Airway Management	707
Robert S. Schoaps and Sprague W. Hazard III	
172 Intubation and Extubation	711
Ariel P. Santos	
173 Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS)	719
Dan A. Galvan	
174 Management of Sepsis	723
Jacklyn Engelbart and Luis J. Garcia	
175 Management of Shock	727
Jacklyn Engelbart and Luis J. Garcia	
176 Blood Transfusion Indications	731
Jacklyn Engelbart and Luis J. Garcia	
177 Abdominal Compartment Syndrome	735
Jacklyn Engelbart and Luis J. Garcia	
178 Acute Renal Failure	739
Kathleen A. Iles and Richard J. King	
179 Postoperative Pulmonary Emboli	743
Kathleen A. Iles and Richard J. King	
180 Burns Management	747
Kathleen A. Iles and Richard J. King	
181 Acid-Base Disorders	751
Kathleen A. Iles and Richard J. King	
Part XXI Electrolytes	
182 Hyponatremia	757
Kathryn W. Shaw and Andre A. S. Dick	
183 Hypernatremia	761
Kathryn W. Shaw and Andre A. S. Dick	

184 Hypokalemia	765
Kathryn W. Shaw and Andre A. S. Dick	
185 Hyperkalemia	767
Kathryn W. Shaw and Andre A. S. Dick	
186 Management of Hypocalcemia	771
Robert S. Schoaps and Sprague W. Hazard III	
187 Management of Hypercalcemia	775
Robert S. Schoaps and Sprague W. Hazard III	
188 Paradoxical Aciduria	779
Robert S. Schoaps and Sprague W. Hazard III	

Part XXII Hernia

189 Inguinal Hernia	783
Q. Lina Hu and David C. Chen	
190 Recurrent Inguinal Hernia	789
Q. Lina Hu and David C. Chen	
191 Femoral Hernia	793
Q. Lina Hu and David C. Chen	
192 Obturator Hernia	797
Q. Lina Hu and David C. Chen	
193 Ventral Hernia Repair	801
Justin A. Doble and Eric M. Pauli	
194 Incarcerated and Strangulated Hernia	805
Justin A. Doble and Eric M. Pauli	
195 Management of Open Abdomen	809
Justin A. Doble and Eric M. Pauli	
196 Abdominal Wall Reconstruction	813
Justin A. Doble and Eric M. Pauli	

Part XXIII Bariatric Surgery

197 Indications for Bariatric Surgery	819
Jin Sun Kim and Ann M. Rogers	
198 Work-Up of Abdominal Pain in the Bariatric Patient	821
Sarayna S. McGuire and Ann M. Rogers	
199 Internal Hernia: Diagnosis and Treatment	825
Brandon LaBarge and Ann M. Rogers	
200 Marginal Ulcer: Diagnosis and Treatment	827
Ye Tian and Ann M. Rogers	
201 Ventral Hernia Repair in Bariatric Patients	831
Anish Shah and Salvatore Docimo Jr.	

202 Acute Leak Following Bariatric Surgery: Endoscopic Stent Management	835
Salvatore Docimo Jr.	
203 Vitamin and Micronutrient Deficiencies After Bariatric Surgery	839
Salvatore Docimo Jr.	
Part XXIV Pregnancy and General Surgery	
204 Pregnancy and Cholelithiasis	845
Jaimey M. Pauli	
205 Pregnancy and Appendicitis	849
Emily Smith and Jaimey M. Pauli	
206 Pregnancy and Breast Cancer	853
James M. O'Brien and Jaimey M. Pauli	
207 Pregnancy and Hernia	857
Jaimey M. Pauli	
Index	861

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