Laparoscopic Gastrectomy for Cancer
Laparoscopic Gastrectomy for Cancer

Standard Techniques and Clinical Evidences
It is my great pleasure that we have finally achieved the goal of publishing the English textbook *Laparoscopic Gastrectomy for Cancer: Standard Techniques and Clinical Evidence*, written in cooperation with the Korean Laparoendoscopic Gastrointestinal Surgery Study Group (Professor Han-Kwang Yang, Immediate Past President).

The first laparoscopy-assisted gastrectomy for gastric cancer in Japan was performed in 1991, and 20 years have passed since then. In the beginning, laparoscopy itself was a coarse procedure, and there were no specialized surgical instruments as repeated trials and errors occurred. However, we were impressed with how remarkable less-invasive surgery was. Later, by comparing laparoscopic gastrectomy with traditional open surgery, many surgeons realized that laparoscopy-assisted gastrectomy would contribute to improving the quality of life for patients after surgery, and the procedure started to spread widely.

With the rapid spread of laparoscopic gastrectomy, there were calls for a standard technique to be established; therefore, we founded the Laparoscopy-Assisted Lymph Node Dissection Club (a name later changed to the current LAG Club) in 1999. The purpose of this club was the establishment of a standard technique and clinical evidence. The meaning of the establishment of a standard technique was to improve the level of safety and the quality of lymph node dissection as a method of local control in cancer treatment.

When we had substantially achieved our purposes in 2000, we co-founded the Japan–Korea Laparoscopy-Assisted Gastrectomy Club in cooperation with Professor Han-Kwang Yang in order to have extensive discussions with colleagues in Korea, which has the high rate of gastric cancer that Japan has and in which laparoscopic gastrectomy is popular.

During the past 10 years, as a result of our continued discussions every year, we have achieved a certain consensus regarding a standard technique among specialists in the field of endoscopic surgery in Japan and Korea. Therefore, we have decided to publish *Laparoscopic Gastrectomy for Cancer: Standard Techniques and Clinical Evidence* with an accompanying DVD as a 20th-anniversary volume. We strongly believe that this book will be very useful for not only beginners, but also for endoscopic surgeons who perform laparoscopic gastrectomy daily.

I would like to thank Professor Han-Kwang Yang for putting an incredible effort into publishing this book from Seoul National University, Dr. Gyu-Seok Cho, Professor Norio Shiraishi, Dr. Tsuyoshi Etoh, Ms. Midori Kono, Ms. Emi Ichimaru, and Ms. Ai Sato, who formed the secretariat for this project. Also I would like to express my appreciation to Ms. Makie Kambara at Springer Japan, who handled the publishing of the book.

I dedicate this book to the patient who underwent the first laparoscopy-assisted distal gastrectomy 20 years ago, on December 26, 1991.

September 2011

Seigo Kitano
President
Japan Laparoscopy-Assisted Gastrectomy Club
Preface

In 2000, Professor Seigo Kitano and I began our collaboration in order to promote laparoscopic surgery for gastric cancer. In 2006, he and I started an official joint seminar with leading Japanese and Korean laparoscopic gastric surgeons, with government support funds. Every year we exchanged information about our progress in this field.

This Japan–Korea or Korea–Japan Joint Seminar provided a forum not only for exchanging experience but also for stimulating each other with bright ideas and healthy competition between our two countries.

This book is the first collaborative achievement by laparoscopic gastric surgeons from Japan and Korea—an actual demonstration of surgeons, institutes, and countries working together! The book is filled with masters’ surgical procedures for gastric cancer, and this compilation will evolve as time goes by, generation to generation.

I am proud to have had a part of laying the first stepping stone in this project with Professor Kitano and contributing surgeons from Japan and Korea. I would especially like to thank Professor Norio Shiraishi and Dr. Gyu-Seok Cho and the other contributors who made this publication possible.

We dedicate this book to the patients who participated in clinical trials to help future patients.

September 2011
Han-Kwang Yang
Immediate Past President
Korean Laparoendoscopic Gastrointestinal Surgery Study Group
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