

# Preface

We are currently witnessing a marked change in total hip arthroplasty. Minimally invasive surgical techniques have been popularized in the media and patients are showing an increased interest in these techniques, which promise to provide them with an even better result following total hip replacement.

Most people agree that minimally invasive surgery should lessen the impact of the operation on the patient's quality of life. Different techniques are available, and this book will help you to understand the concept of minimally invasive surgery of the hip and the reasons why surgeons choose various solutions to achieve the same goal.

As there are different ways to minimize soft-tissue and muscle traumas, skin incision length, and capsular disruption, this book covers all important approaches to the hip based on history of minimally invasive surgery. It also includes a comprehensive chapter on anatomy. The reader gets first-class information on the anterior, the antero-lateral, and the posterior approach, using different techniques of positioning the patient and different instrumentation.

The history of minimally invasive surgery is important for a complete understanding of these new techniques and the anatomy around the hip. A certain amount of repetition has been included as the new techniques focus on areas that must be described in detail for a better understanding of the techniques and different approaches.

The reader may then decide whether minimally invasive surgery is a winning concept and whether new instruments and new prosthetic designs are required.

The purpose of this book was to assemble a comprehensive collection of current knowledge on minimally invasive arthroplasty technique in the hip.

Our goal was to include all important approaches and to discuss these with experts in that field.

As long as the scientific evidence regarding definitive outcomes lacks long-term follow-up studies, the book assists reconstructive surgeons in their decision-making for an individual patient, helping them to decide which approach and which technique is best for the surgeon and the patient.

Total hip arthroplasty will continue to evolve in directions previously thought not possible.

This book is intended to provide the surgeon with detailed anatomy and technical information to prepare the new operative techniques and decide which approach to use and then assist in the everyday work with these techniques.

In summary, there are a growing number of elderly people with an increasing incidence of arthritis. These older people are better educated and have more information access than was previously the case and – last but not least – these potential total hip patients may have high activity expectations.

The new total hip patient needs new operative techniques that provide him not only in the early days after the operation, but also in the long run, with an optimal result. After operation, the patient will be able to take up his recreational activities without any problems and with full muscle function.

We hope that this book will help to answer the open questions in the field of minimally invasive surgery in total hip arthroplasty.

Wiesbaden, Germany  
Kassel, Germany

Prof. Dr. Joachim Pfeil  
Prof. Dr. Werner E. Siebert