

Special Issue on
**Minimally Invasive Surgery for Children: Current Topics
of Clinical and Fundamental Research**

CALL FOR PAPERS

Minimally invasive surgery has recently become available for children and is increasingly being performed, both laparoscopically and thoracoscopically. Compared with adult surgery, however, there is an insufficient number of articles published to stimulate our continuing efforts in minimally invasive pediatric surgery, because of the limited number of pediatric patients and high-volume centers for pediatric endoscopic surgery. It is likely that there are many techniques and pitfalls in pediatric endoscopic surgery that are not widely known, as well as innovative minimally invasive pediatric procedures other than endoscopic surgery. We believe this special issue provides an opportunity to share a wide range of experiences in minimally invasive surgery for children.

The use of endoscopic surgeries for some pediatric diseases (such as biliary atresia) remains controversial. To prove the superiority of endoscopic surgery for children, it is necessary to demonstrate the superiority of endoscopic surgery in terms of surgical noninvasiveness, in addition to proving the equivalence of clinical outcome between open and endoscopic surgeries. However, it is difficult to objectively evaluate the invasiveness of pediatric surgery, for reasons that include the inability of infants to express their postoperative pain using a visual analog scale and because the time from surgery to oral intake or hospital discharge is often decided according to the clinical path rather than the type of surgery undergone by the patient. It is hoped that evidence will emerge which confirms the benefits of pediatric endoscopic surgery in terms of minimal invasiveness, based on clinical and fundamental research.

We invite investigators to contribute original research articles and review articles.

Potential topics include but are not limited to the following:

- ▶ Clinical trials and interventional strategies related to pediatric endoscopic surgery
- ▶ Novel techniques in pediatric endoscopic surgery
- ▶ The use of robotic surgery for treating children
- ▶ Management of operative risk and intraoperative problems
- ▶ Breakthroughs in minimally invasive procedures other than endoscopic surgery
- ▶ Studies of the mechanisms of minimal invasiveness in endoscopic surgery
- ▶ Education in endoscopic surgery for residents and students

Authors can submit their manuscripts through the Manuscript Tracking System at <http://mts.hindawi.com/submit/journals/bmri/surgery/misc/>.

Lead Guest Editor

Hiroo Uchida, Nagoya University,
Nagoya, Japan
hiro2013@med.nagoya-u.ac.jp

Guest Editors

David C. van der Zee, University
Medical Center Utrecht, Utrecht,
Netherlands
d.c.vanderzee@umcutrecht.nl

Atsuyuki Yamataka, Juntendo
University School of Medicine, Tokyo,
Japan
yama@juntendo.ac.jp

Todd A. Ponsky, Akron Children's
Hospital, Akron, USA
tponsky@chmca.org

Manuscript Due

Friday, 23 December 2016

First Round of Reviews

Friday, 17 March 2017

Publication Date

Friday, 12 May 2017