Introduction

Medical instrumentation has developed remarkably in the past several decades. One area in which progress has been particularly noticeable is endoscopy. The development of fiberoptic endoscopes in the late 1950's and 1960's opened a new era in terms of diagnostic procedures, including simpler anesthesia techniques and reduced discomfort for the patient. With the advent of the 1970's and 1980's endoscopy came to be increasingly used not only for diagnostic but also for therapeutic procedures. In particular, the application of different kinds of lasers in combination with endoscopes increased the diagnostic and therapeutic value of these instruments. More recently the advent of electronic videoendoscope has increased the possibilities of diagnostic applications as well as information storage and transfer.

Diagnostic and Therapeutic Endoscopy aims to publish materials on all topics related to endoscopic procedures in all organs. As a result, we encompass ENT, the tracheobronchial tree, esophagus, upper GI, hepatopancreato-biliary system, lower GI, urinary bladder, female reproductive tract, joints, and vascular, thoracic and abdominal cavities. The journal will be published quarterly and will include full-length papers, review articles and case reports. Our aim is to ensure not only a high scientific level but also an excellent level of photography, since it is the quality of photographs that determine the value of papers or endoscopic findings. Articles concerning preclinical research, clinical papers, case reports, reports on development of endoscopic tools and accessory, are welcomed. We will do our utmost to ensure prompt publication once a paper is accepted.

In this first issue, three review papers, four original papers and two case reports are included in addition to information on international conferences this year. We look forward to working with our colleagues in the promotion of all aspects of diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopy.

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