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Endoscopic Approaches to the Skull Base

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109 figures, 24 in color, and 13 tables, 2012
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Volume 26 of the continuing series of *Progress in Neurological Surgery* indeed reveals one of the most innovative and game-changing modern evolutions of skull base surgery. Transsphenoidal techniques were first envisioned more than 100 years ago, but were hampered by lack of visualization and illumination. While traditional transsphenoidal surgery using microsurgical techniques blossomed in the 1970s and 1980s, the introduction of the expanded endoscopic approach in the 21st century has been a very powerful addition to an array of neurosurgical technologies. The expanded endoscopic method was facilitated by the revolution in image guidance using computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging, and the remarkable growth of endoscopic devices. This volume provides a broad overview of the expanding role of transsphenoidal approaches for a wide spectrum of skull base diseases. A number of centers across the world have been major innovators and adopters of endoscopic expanded techniques. These centers are well represented in the author list of this volume, which should serve as a potent reference for students and practitioners of neurosurgery. The endoscopic approach is firmly integrated within the modern multidisciplinary management of skull base tumors. I am grateful to the editors for their leadership in this volume, as well as to the many co-authors who have been willing to share their ever increasing experience with the readership of *Progress in Neurological Surgery*.

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