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Anatomy, Diagnosis and Treatment

Editor Madjid Samii, Hannover

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Prof. Dr. med. Madjid Samii
Neurochirurgische Klinik
im Krankenhaus Nordstadt
Haltenhoffstrasse 41
D-30167 Hannover

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Preface

The skull base pathologies, which are rarely confined to a limited area, could not be approached by only one single specialty. For a long time, different surgical disciplines as neuro-, ENT-, maxillofacial-, ophthalmo-, plastic and reconstructive surgery, tried to find separately solutions for the treatment of pathological entities. Pioneers of those specialties have introduced important new approaches for the skull base diseases. However, skull base surgery experienced a breakthrough after technical innovations (CT scan, IRI, selective angiography, etc.) and microsurgery have been combined by the consequent cooperation between all disciplines involved in the skull base.

An interdisciplinary cooperation for the skull base started at the University of Mainz almost 25 years ago. This combined effort increased our knowledge continuously and made us understand the benefit of such an activity to treat those skull base processes, which were designated as not accessible or not operable.

Since 1979, interdisciplinary courses with anatomical demonstrations by Johannes Lang and Pierre Rabischong have been organized in Hannover. In 1980, the International Skull Base Study Group was created with biennial congresses on skull base pathologies. Finally, in 1988, the International Skull Base Society was founded with the idea to prepare the first world-wide meeting considering colleagues from all disciplines who have already gained experience in this field.

The peak of this series of courses, national and international meetings, was reached at the First International Skull Base Congress in Hannover in June 1992, with more than 1,000 participants from 55 different countries and 863 contributions.

The high level of contributions to this meeting by internationally renowned specialists, the innovation of new techniques in diagnostics and surgical treatment have motivated us to publish this book. It gives a unique overview on all aspects involving the skull base.
regarding anatomical, diagnostic and surgical management, as well as problems of brain protection and postoperative treatment. 
The realization of this 1,296-page book with more than 300 contributions was only possible through the smooth cooperation of the authors and the publisher, as well as by the enormous proofreading work of Mrs. Nitsche and Dr. Klekamp. From the beginning of the project until the appearance of this book, the intensive teamwork between Mrs. Nitsche and the staff of S. Karger AG, Basel, Switzerland, needs a special acknowledgment. Many thanks also to my secretary, Ms. Malo, who helped me in the final stage of preparation.

M. Samii