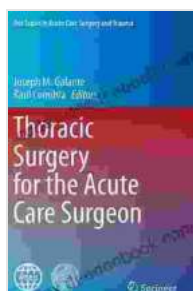


Thoracic Surgery for the Acute Care Surgeon: Hot Topics in Acute Care Surgery

Thoracic surgery is a complex and challenging field that requires a deep understanding of anatomy, physiology, and surgical techniques. For the acute care surgeon, who may encounter thoracic emergencies in the emergency department or intensive care unit, it is essential to have a basic understanding of thoracic surgery principles and techniques. This article will provide an overview of thoracic surgery for the acute care surgeon, including the most common indications for surgery, the different types of thoracic surgical procedures, and the postoperative care of thoracic surgery patients.

Indications for Thoracic Surgery

The most common indications for thoracic surgery include:



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by Heather B. MacIntosh

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- Trauma
- Chest injuries
- Lung injuries
- Esophageal injuries
- Tracheal injuries
- Mediastinal injuries
- Pleural injuries
- Diaphragm injuries
- Pericardial injuries
- Cardiac injuries
- Great vessel injuries

Types of Thoracic Surgical Procedures

The different types of thoracic surgical procedures include:

- Thoracotomy
- Video-assisted thoracoscopic surgery (VATS)
- Robotic-assisted thoracic surgery
- Lung resection
- Esophageal resection
- Tracheal resection
- Mediastinal resection

- Pleural resection
- Diaphragm repair
- Pericardial repair
- Cardiac repair
- Great vessel repair

Postoperative Care of Thoracic Surgery Patients

The postoperative care of thoracic surgery patients depends on the type of surgery performed. However, some general principles of care include:

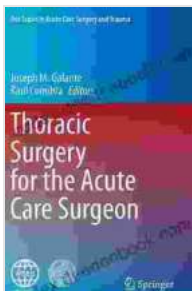
- Close monitoring of vital signs and oxygen saturation
- Chest tube drainage
- Pain management
- Respiratory support
- Nutritional support
- Wound care
- Physical therapy

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