Advancement in treatment for esophageal disease

In the era of minimally invasive surgery, treatment for esophageal disease has experienced many changes. Similar to most other surgical subspecialties, minimally invasive surgery has become the standard technique for many conditions of the esophagus. Although laparoscopy and thoracoscopy remain widely used and are efficient means of minimally invasive esophageal surgery, advancements in the robotic platform have led to increased usage in nearly all aspects of foregut surgery. Treatment of both benign and malignant esophageal pathology with the surgical robot yields the potential benefits of improved visualization, increased instrument range of motion, and ergonomic optimization for the operating surgeon. Furthermore, robotic surgery has allowed some surgeons to transition more effectively from predominantly open to minimally invasive approach. From an endoscopic standpoint, a number of esophageal conditions, such as diverticula of the cervical esophagus and reflux disease, can be treated by total endoscopic techniques in some cases with no external incisions. As technology, experience, and innovation progress further, esophageal surgeons will continue to have a diverse array of treatments options for common and complex esophageal disease.

Acknowledgments

Funding: None.

Footnote

Provenance and Peer Review: This article was commissioned by the editorial office, Journal of Visualized Surgery for the series “Advancement in Treatment for Esophageal Diseases”. The article did not undergo external peer review.

Conflicts of Interest: The author has completed the ICMJE uniform disclosure form (available at http://dx.doi.org/10.21037/jovs-2019-ated-08). The series “Advancement in Treatment for Esophageal Diseases” was commissioned by the editorial office without any funding or sponsorship. The authors have no other conflicts of interest to declare.

Ethical Statement: The author is accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

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Received: 03 July 2020; Accepted: 27 July 2020.

doi: 10.21037/jovs-2019-ated-08

View this article at: http://dx.doi.org/10.21037/jovs-2019-ated-08

Cite this article as: Liou DZ. Advancement in treatment for esophageal disease. J Vis Surg 2020.