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.

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