Preface

The treatment of patients with head and neck trauma requires a highly professional, fast, and multidisciplinary approach. There might be certain regional differences around the globe, but in most countries anesthesiologists, trauma surgeons, neurosurgeons, ear, nose, and throat (ENT) specialists, and oral and maxillofacial surgeons (OMS) are primarily involved.

While initial management is usually limited to identifying and treating life-threatening conditions, later steps in the adequate management of the consequences of head and neck trauma generally belong to only a few specialized fields. The present book is the product of a long-standing, clinical cooperation between the Departments of Otorhinolaryngology and Maxillo-Facial Surgery at the Berlin Trauma Center (UKB), with an additional neurosurgical contribution.

The book is intended to serve as a guide, providing all those involved in the care of patients with head and neck trauma basic as well as specialized knowledge. Flow charts, special sections detailing "Rules and Pitfalls," and case reports serve as a quick bedside manual, with the entire work representing an extensive textbook.

The book reflects this approach and is divided into sections on initial management, diagnosis, and therapy. In addition, numerous cross-references facilitate the linking of symptoms, evaluation, and management.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff members at our departments who are also responsible for conducting the annual training course on "Head and Neck Trauma Management" in Berlin. Additionally, we would like to express our gratitude to Professor Sven Mutze, Director of the Institute for Radiology at UKB, for permission to use the images printed in this book and also to Thieme Publishing Group, in particular, Dr. Urbanowicz for his patient support in the completion of this book.

We sincerely hope that the English edition of our book will find many readers across the globe, even though a few differences may exist for the management of head and neck trauma.

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