It has now been more than a century since the discovery of roentgen rays, and five decades since their routine incorporation into clinical practice. The past three decades have observed vast improvements in plain radiographic quality, the incorporation of computers into the imaging system, and the development of completely new imaging technology such as magnetic resonance, ultrasonography, and digitalization. The use of imaging in surgical practice has become almost as much a part of the preoperative assessment as the history and physical examination itself. With that in mind, it is important for the surgeon to be familiar with all imaging modalities that may improve patient assessment, and also to have a working knowledge of which images and what image hallmarks are associated with common maladies, conditions, and pathologic entities. As imaging is visual in nature, the atlas format is particularly effective in conveying such information to the clinician.

An Atlas of Head and Neck Images, Parts I and II are provided as an overview of technology, and as simple guides for interpreting images of common head and neck maladies, conditions, and pathologic entities. While this atlas series is primarily directed toward oral and maxillofacial surgeons, plastic and reconstructive surgeons, and otorhinolaryngologist–head and neck surgeons, it also will be a useful tool for radiologists, neurosurgeons, general surgeons, and the medical and dental communities at large. The first two articles in the series deal with head and neck trauma, their assessment and management. The third focuses on chest radiography in the perioperative period. The fourth article approaches the cutting edge of imaging technology with a presentation of ultrasonography of the maxillofacial region. Part II in this series begins with an exhaustive compendium of panoramic images. The sixth article focuses on computed tomography of the head and neck. The final articles include nuclear imaging and magnetic resonance imaging as they are applied to the head, neck and face.

While this atlas series does provide an overview of signs, symptoms, etiology and pathophysiology of a vast array of head and neck problems, it is not meant to be a definitive treatise on
injury and pathology. It is intended merely to act as a guide to quickly point the practicing surgeon in the right direction when he or she encounters specific conditions and problems in head and neck surgery. It is highly visual in design, so as to act as a quick and ready reference.

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