

## Original articles

Wichmann MW, Müller C, Meyer G, Adam M, Angele MK, Eisenmenger SJ, Schildberg F-W:  
**Different immune responses to abdominal surgery in men and women** 397

Shamiyeh A, Schrenk P, Wayand WU:  
**Prospective trial comparing bilateral and unilateral varicose vein surgery** 402

Bittorf B, Stadelmaier U, Merkel S, Hohenberger W, Matzel KE:  
**Does anastomotic leakage affect functional outcome after rectal resection for cancer?** 406

Wykypiel H, Wetscher GJ, Klaus A, Schmid T, Gadenstaetter M, Bodner J, Bodner E:  
**Robot-assisted laparoscopic partial posterior fundoplication with the DaVinci system: initial experiences and technical aspects** 411

Zieren J, Küpper F, Paul M, Neuss H, Müller JM:  
**Inguinal hernia: obligatory indication for elective surgery? A prospective assessment of quality of life before and after plug and patch inguinal hernia repair** 417

Pålsson B, Hallén M, Forsberg AM, Alwmark A:  
**Partial splenic embolization: long-term outcome** 421

Rosch R, Junge K, Knops M, Lynen P, Klinge U, Schumpelick V:  
**Analysis of collagen-interacting proteins in patients with incisional hernias** 427

Duda GN, Sporrer S, Sollmann M, Hoffmann JE, Kassi J-P, Khodadadyan C, Raschke M:  
**Interfragmentary movements in the early phase of healing in distraction and correction osteotomies stabilized with ring fixators** 433

## New surgical horizons

Dervenis C, Avgerinos C, Lytras D, Delis S:  
**Benefits and limitations of enteral nutrition in the early postoperative period** 441

## Announcements 450

## Forthcoming articles in print

published online and citable with the DOI (Digital Object Identifier) can be found under <http://link.springer.de/link/service/journals/00423/contents/tfirst.htm> or subscribe to Alert service <http://link.springer.de/alert> or <http://link.springer-ny.com/alert/>

Indexed in/abstracted by *Current Contents* and *Index Medicus*

**Online First**  
Immediately Online

*Faster publication!*



Springer



1435-2443(200302)387:11-12;1-P