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Abraham Lebenthal



Dr. Abraham ("Avi") Lebenthal was born in Jerusalem, Israel. He graduated the Hebrew University Medical School and then served as a physician in the IDF. Dr. Lebenthal trained in general surgery at the Hadassah Ein-Kerem. During his residency, he spent a senior year at Mount Sinai Medical center in NYC where he was exposed to advanced laparoscopy. He obtained a Master in Health Administration (MHA) from the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, while deployed in a leadership position, at the tail end of his surgical residency.

Dr. Lebenthal spent four years as a clinical fellow at the Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH) in Boston. The first two years were devoted to general thoracic surgery. He then spent additional years as the division's first minimally invasive thoracic surgery fellow, focusing on MIS for advanced foregut disease.

Dr. Lebenthal is Board certified in the State of Israel in both General Surgery and General Thoracic Surgery.

He accepted a staff position at the Fox Chase Cancer Center. There he established a minimally invasive esophageal program, set up a MIS skills lab, established and obtained industry funding for an advanced minimally invasive thoracic fellowship program. He was first to perform MIE's in the greater Philadelphia area.

In 2010, he returned to Boston dividing his time equally between two Harvard teaching hospitals: BWH and the West Roxbury VA. At the WRVA he is director of Minimally Invasive Thoracic Surgery and has established a rotation for BWH clinical fellows. He has developed a busy regional foregut practice. Additionally, Dr. Lebenthal has built a mesothelioma program at the WRVA which is unique within the VA network, offering surgically challenging procedures available at only a handful of elite University medical centers to Veterans. His program attracts patients nationally from within the VA healthcare system offering therapy that would otherwise be inaccessible to this population. He has established a funded mesothelioma research fellowship for surgeons.

His research addresses outcomes studies on mesothelioma and benign and malignant diseases of the esophagus. Dr. Lebenthal has a passion for teaching; he actively mentors medical students, residents, fellows and visiting surgeons in advanced surgical techniques. In 2011, he was part of a BWH Thoracic Surgery team that traveled to Israel to teach minimally invasive esophagectomy.