

Book Reviews

Metastases in Head and Neck Cancer

J. Werner & K. Davis, editors
Springer Verlag, 2004, 233 pages, more than 100 illustrations and 20 tables
ISBN: 3-540-20507-1
Price: Euro 129.95

This comprehensive and cohesive presentation starts with an anatomically historic passage, which contains descriptive anatomical characteristics of the lymph net, embryology, topography, including Robbins' division, whereas Gregoire's division will wait until next edition. The authors wish to give the basic scientific background, not a 'how-to-do-it' instruction; rather 'why and where metastases occur, and which treatment options there are'.

They continue with descriptions of pathways for normal lymph spread and cyto-histo-pathological spread where all lymph nodes from squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck tumour, including the thyroid gland, are described.

There is a well-written diagnostic chapter concerning all types of scintigraphies, imaging examinations including PET scans and fine needle aspirations and biopsies. This chapter is one of two chapters written by cited authors – there are 8 chapters which must have been written by the authors, who are the editors from Marburg, Germany and Utah, USA.

Principles of surgery and surgical treatment concept as well as complication take 3 chapters and is very dominating, even though radiation and chemo-radiation are mentioned.

The chapter about radiotherapy mainly describes IMRT and even recommends it for reirradiation.

A well-written and interesting chapter deals with lymph node metastases from cancer of an unknown primary site. Why the author has written 4 pages about distant metastases is difficult to understand. A follow-up chapter is appreciated. Every chapter is well supplied with references, both historic and newer, but only few from 2002 and 2003.

A description of postsurgical care and a list of the abbreviations would be welcome.

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Non-Hodgkin's Lymphomas

P. Mauch, J. Armitage, B. Coiffier, R. Dalla-Favera & N. Harris, editors
Lippincott Williams and Wilkins, 2003, 856 pp.
ISBN: 0-7817-3526-2

This book provides a comprehensive coverage of all aspects of the non-Hodgkin's lymphomas. It begins with a section on the historical aspects, in particular the fascinating history of the development of the numerous lymphoma classifications, told by some of the scientists who took part in the development themselves. Another section covers diagnosis, staging and initial evaluation, with excellent chapters explaining the complicated aspects of modern lymphoma classification, and chapters on imaging including the increasingly important contribution of nuclear medicine. Treatment principles are covered in detail, with presentations of the evidence for the recommended approaches. A particular strength of this book is the competent and detailed presentation of the radiotherapy of lymphomas, an aspect which is not usually paid sufficient attention in textbooks. Also the promising new biologic therapies, in particular unlabeled and labeled antibodies, are given an up-to-date presentation.

The different disease entities of the WHO lymphoma classifications are dealt with separately, including their epidemiology, diagnosis, clinical features, and management. Treatment recommendations are given based on the available evidence, but it is also appropriately acknowledged that many of the less common disease entities have only been recognised for a short time, and that firm evidence regarding the optimal treatment is not yet available. Again, this book is remarkable for its balanced coverage of all treatment modalities, in particular the important role of radiotherapy in the treatment of early stage disease and in palliative treatment. Late effects of treatment, a topic which is now receiving increasing attention, is covered as well. One section is devoted to special topics of particular interest to clinicians such as lymphomas in children, in the elderly, during pregnancy, and in immune deficiency, and also a useful chapter on the heterogeneous group of other lymphoproliferative disorders. The last section deals with etiology, including possible infectious agents, the biology of lymphocytes, and the molecular genetics of lymphomas.

The book is written by experts from all over the world, ensuring a balanced presentation. There are many excellent illustrations. However, it would have been nice if the colour plates had been integrated in the text instead of being gathered at the front of the book. This has

undoubtedly been done to reduce cost, and is merely a minor detail which does not detract from the fact that this is probably the most comprehensive, balanced and up to date textbook on the non-Hodgkin's lymphomas available. It is highly recommended to everyone interested in lymphomas, and it is indispensable in every clinical department treating lymphoma patients.

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Atlas of PET/CT Imaging in Oncology

J. Czernin, M. Dahlbom, O. Ratib & C. Shiepers,
editors

Springer-Verlag, 2004, 315 pp.

ISBN: 3-540-20952-2

Price: Euro 109.95

Combined PET/CT scanning is a relatively new modality in oncologic scanning, yet it has already proven to be an invaluable tool. This book is an excellent general reference book suitable to any diagnostic department, both those

new to PET/CT and those with already existing systems. Referring oncologists will also find the book informative. It is a clear and concise book that will be useful to both medical and technical staff.

The book discusses patient preparation prior to the examination, scanning procedures and results.

Particularly useful is the chapter *Acquisition Schemes for Combined 18F-FDG Imaging: A European Experience* and the chapter discussing artefacts and physiologic variants can be of interest to departments for whom this type of scanning is new.

The whole book is very visually oriented with case stories presented in a systematic, easy-to-follow manner. The text associated with each case story's Teaching Points is very informative.

This book would be an excellent addition to any department involved in PET/CT scanning, both of clinical oncology and of radiology/nuclear medicine.

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