

Book review

PROPHYLAXE UND THERAPIE VON BEHANDLUNGSFOLGEN BEI KARZINOMEN DER FRAU. Edited by Dietrich Schmähl. Klinisch-Onkologisches Seminar, Band 1. 170 pages with 60 figures and 66 tables. Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart 1976. Price: DM 44: —.

The book contains a collection of lectures and discussions given at the recovery clinic, Bad Trissl in Oberaudorf in 1975. A review is given of the radiation reactions, which may occur after treatment of malignant tumours in the gynaecologic organs and of the breast. As a background, a general review of the effect of radiation in relation to doses and time factors is given. The histologic abnormalities caused by the radiation are discussed.

The complications which may occur in the skin, subcutaneous tissue, vessels, nerves, pleural cavity and lungs following irradiation of mammary tumours are reviewed. They are related to the dose and quality of the radiation.

Following irradiation of carcinoma of the uterine cervix, complications may be encountered in the pelvic connective tissue, ureters, bladder, rectum, sigmoid and small intestines. The complications from the neck of the femur, which occurred after orthovoltage therapy, have disappeared with the introduction of the high voltage technique. The abnormalities of the blood vessels after irradiation are discussed and illustrated by angiographic films. The reviews are thorough and of high value. The authors also discuss the possibility of decreasing and avoiding radiation reactions in the skin and if they occur, how to treat them.

Special attention is paid to the healing disturbances after laparotomy in patients who have been given preoperative irradiation.

A detailed review is given of the frequency of different radiation reactions after treatment of gynaecologic malignant diseases. Following treatment of carcinoma of the uterine cervix, radiation proctitis is said to occur in 30.6 per cent, necrosis in the rectum in 5.2 per cent and recto-vaginal fistulas in 1.7 per cent. Colostomies were indicated in 1.6 per cent. Intestinal stenosis occurred in 4.8 per cent and intestinal perforations in 0.4 per cent. Necrosis in the bladder occurred in 3.6 per cent and teleangiectasis in the bladder in 4.1 per cent. Vesico-uretero-vaginal fistulas were recorded in 0.8 per cent.

The complications following combined surgical and radiologic treatment of carcinoma of the uterine cervix are discussed. It is also emphasized that the frequency of complications from the urinary tract is much higher in cases which only have been operated upon than in those irradiated.

The indications and side-effects of hypophysectomy in metastazing carcinoma of the breast are discussed as well as endocrine tumour therapy of gynaecologic malignancies and the effect of chemotherapy on the immunologic defence system. The side-effects of chemotherapy in treatment of malignancies are reviewed in detail. The value of autologous bone marrow transplantation in severe complications is emphasized. A review is given of the different types of chemotherapeutic agents and their side-effects as well as of the sensitivity of the different organs.

The book is very comprehensive and has a great value to those interested in the treatment of gynaecologic malignant tumours.

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