

Book Reviews

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Recent Progress in Bladder and Kidney Cancer—EORTC Genitourinary Group Monograph 11

F. H. Schröder, ed.

Wiley-Liss, Inc., New York, 1992, 245 pp.

ISBN: 0-471-58821-0

USD 116.— Hardcover

This monograph is the 11th in the series published by the EORTC Genitourinary Group. It contains review papers, updates and original contributions selected from the proceedings of the 1st International Congress of the Dutch Urological Association 'Progress and Controversies in Oncological Urology III' in Rotterdam in 1991. It deals with urinary bladder and kidney cancer, and focuses on recent progress and on controversies in these tumor types mostly from the European perspective. The results of various EORTC studies are presented.

In the section on urinary bladder cancer, 9 of the 15 chapters deal with intravesical therapy in superficial tumors. Two of these reports give extensive and authoritative reviews on the subject presenting both European and North American findings. Others are of lesser value to the clinician due to limited number of patients in reported studies. The monograph further presents two excellent overview reports on the relative merits of upfront and postoperative chemotherapy in patients with muscle invasive bladder cancer.

Of special interest is a chapter presenting evidence for a prognostic value of cytochrome P-450IID6 enzyme activity for bladder cancer recurrence after initial tumor resection and for tumor progression. The results point to a potential for intervention by blocking this enzyme in patients with early bladder cancer.

In the section on renal cell carcinoma, 6 of the 12 chapters report on the types of surgery in this tumor entity with regard to the extent of renal parenchymal resection and to the resection of regional lymph nodes. Cases are made for both the conservative and for the radical procedure. A paper on ploidy in renal cell carcinoma confirms known relationships between aneuploidy and tumor stage, tumor grade and tumor metastatic potential.

Of interest is the finding of an aneuploid DNA pattern from non-tumor parts of the resected renal parenchyma in 4% of examined specimens. This finding has a potential impact on the question of parenchymal sparing surgery in renal cell cancer.

Of further interest is an investigation on tumor infiltrating lymphocytes in resected specimens of primary renal clear cell carcinomas and in chromophilic carcinomas. Most infiltrating lymphocytes are of the helper and cytotoxic subgroups. However, most of these T cell lack the expression of the CD 25 antigen, which is the interleukin-2 receptor and a stimulation marker of T lymphocytes in general. Thus, there seems to exist a T cell locomotion in primary clear cell and chromophilic cancers, but there is lacking evidence of a sufficient in-vivo stimulation of these lymphocytes. No data on lymphocyte infiltration in metastatic lesions are presented.

The final chapter reports on therapy with the combination of IL-2, LAK cells and alpha-interferon in disseminated renal cell cancer at the Rotterdam Cancer Institute. A response rate of approximately 40% were registered in 22 evaluable patients. Four of 9 responding patients had remissions maintained for more than 10 months. The authors speculate on the value of the LAK cell

component of their combined therapy. Further reference is given to the possible beneficial effect of the use of TIL cells and bifunctional antibodies with specificity for an activation antigen of effector cells and for a tumor associated antigen.

In conclusion, this monograph is a highly interesting and important communication which I recommend to clinicians in urological oncology. However, substandard proof-reading flaws some of the chapters. At times, words or whole lines are omitted in the running text, deletions that occasionally are vital for the correct interpretation of procedures and lines of reasoning.

PER FLODGREN

Non-disseminated Breast Cancer

G. Fletcher & S. Levitt, eds.

Springer Verlag, 1993, 164 pp, 42 figs.

ISBN: 3-540-54514-x

DM 180.— Hardcover

The idea for this book was conceived four years ago by Dr. Gilbert H. Fletcher, who actively involved his last time to this publication to present areas of most concern to physicians directly involved in the treatment of early breast cancer. This situation with breast cancer has changed quite dramatically over the last decades; the number of breast cancer diagnoses has risen sharply, and there has been a change towards diagnosis at a much earlier stage than before. This has created many new controversies. What is the role of surgery? What are the respective advantages of radical mastectomy, modified radical mastectomy, and conservation surgery with and without supplementary treatment? What is the role of radiation therapy. When should radiation therapy be performed after mastectomy, and what volumes should be irradiated after mastectomy? Where is radiation therapy indicated after conservation surgery, and when is radiation therapy an effective palliative treatment measure? When should chemotherapy and/or hormonal therapy be used as an adjuvant to primary treatment and when as an effective palliative treatment? This book, written by 21 eminent experts, addresses these critical and important questions. Not the least, it is repeatedly pointed out that there are still many problems to be solved, and much more research is needed, a true homage à Gilbert H. Fletcher. This book is highly recommended to everybody involved in patient care and research in breast cancer.

TORSTEN LANDBERG

Radiation Oncologists: the Unfolding of a Medical Speciality

J. del Regato

Radiation Oncology History, Radiology Centennial, P.O. Box 2348, Merrifield, Virginia 22116-2348, USA. 1993, 268 pp., 272 illustrations.

ISBN: 1-55903-135-2

USD 25.95

In the introduction Dr. del Regato quotes: 'history is the essence of numerous biographies'. This book, published close to the centenary of the discoveries of x-ray and gamma rays, gives detailed full-length descriptions of 20 eminent radiation therapists from the time after Wilhelm Röntgen and Henri Becquerel up to now, and also gives short biographies of another 100 of the pioneers in this field. Dr. del Regato tells about these eminent clinicians and scientists, often on the basis of personal acquaintance. There are many illustrations, telling us about the persons

and their background milieu and their technical resources and developments. There is also a list of references of over 700 key note titles. This book is recommended to everybody with an interest in our radiotherapy history. It is in many ways a very personal book, and an excellent comparison to other publications in this field.

TORSTEN LANDBERG

Orbital Tumors, 3rd Edition.

J. Henderson, ed.

Raven Press, 1993, 520 pp., 556 illustrations (23 in color)
ISBN: 0-7817-0096-5
USD 164.-.

This is the third edition of the well-known 'Orbital Tumors' by J. W. Henderson and collaborators (R. J. Campell, G. M. Farrow and J. A. Garrity). Once again they have made a book, which is the most comprehensive of the literature in this field.

Henderson has a long experience of this topic with 1376 cases collected at the Mayo Clinic. This edition gives us the newest aspects of diagnosis and management of these tumors with an up-to-date review of x-ray, ultrasound and histochemical findings.

Henderson's book has, for many years, been a guidance for ophthalmologists, dealing with tumors in the orbit. The quality of this new, third edition ensures that it will so remain. Even if general oncologists fairly seldom come in contact with these rare tumors, the book must be of value for the library of any oncology clinic as well as for interested oncologists.

ERIK KOCK

Medical Electron Accelerators

C. J. Karzmark, C. S. Nunan & E. Tanabe, eds.

McGraw-Hill, Inc., New York
ISBN: 0-07-105410-3
USD 125.-.

This book particularly concerns megavoltage microwave electron linear accelerators in medicine, with their origins, the physics of their operation, and the achievement of optimal designs. The book opens with a history of various types of electron accelerators and a review of cancer incidence in the United States, as well as the goals and rationale of radiotherapy. Because of the popularity of linear accelerators, an in-depth discussion of the theory and design of these accelerators is given which includes the fundamental aspects of microwave power generation and transmission, microwave structures for acceleration of electron beams, and the associated equipment, aspects of confinement of electron beams inside the accelerator, bending and treatment beam formation for both electron and x-ray therapy, items in and on the radiation head, such as multileaf collimators as well as patient support assemblies, treatment planning systems, simulators, portal imaging systems, record and verification systems, and computer networks.

The book also has a comprehensive list of isocentrically mounted linear accelerators made commercially world-wide. In 1986, about 2400 cobalt-60 units, 32 betatrons, 24 Van de Graaff generators, and 2200 linear accelerators were in use throughout the world.

The book is written in a very readable style and contains a tremendous amount of information, including many references. The intended readers are principally medical physicists and radiation oncologists. The information provided will be useful for

anyone involved with the acquisition of new equipment. This book should be on the reference shelf of every radiation therapy center, because of the valuable historical and current information that it provides.

LAWRENCE H. LANZL

Current and Emerging Issues in Cancer Pain

C. Chapman & K. Foley, eds.

Raven Press, 1993, 480 pp., 78 illustrations
ISBN: 0-7817-007-8.
USD 176.50.-.

This book is the result of the Bristol-Myers Squibb Symposium on Pain Research held in July, 1992. The program was very well-organized, and the result is almost a textbook, covering three major themes: basic mechanisms, methodology and management. The questions with reference to medical, pharmacologic and behavioral science intervention are covered in two open discussion sections. In a constructive way, researchers and clinicians exchange experiences. Pain is used in a broad sense including depression, suicide risk, and emotional aspects. The relation between pain and quality of life is also dealt with. Methodological challenges are discussed in relation to clinical trials and also the problem of quantifying and analyzing individual differences. One special topic is the management of pain associated with diagnostic procedures in children with cancer. The ethical issue concerning cancer pain is also debated, a chapter of great importance.

The book illustrates how far we have reached and where to go from here.

STEINAR HAGEN

The Human Yolk Sac and Yolk Sac Tumors

F. Nogales, ed.

Springer-Verlag, 1993, 367 pp., 216 figures, 25 tables.
ISBN: 3-540-56031-9.
DM 460.-. Hardcover.

This multi-author, multidisciplinary book comprises useful information of the yolk sac and the yolk sac tumours that otherwise has to be looked up from widespread sources. In 18 chapters almost all aspects of the unnoticed, but important, yolk sac and the uncommon yolk sac tumours are dealt with. The normal development and function of the mammalian yolk sac, including the human yolk sac, are reported in detail. Experimental models established to elucidate embryogenesis and tumour histogenesis are reviewed. Pathology of the yolk sac is described, as of yolk sac tumours which occur in the gonads and extragonadal sites and this is also illustrated with good microphotographs. A useful chapter of histopathological differential diagnoses is also included. Clinical management and treatment of yolk sac tumours in the ovary and testis are described in separate chapters, mainly based on American experiences.

Since many authors with different approach to the topic contribute to this interesting book some imbalance is unavoidable. The 24 electromicroscopic pictures of macrophages in the yolk sac can thus be supposed to be of interest to few readers only.

To conclude, I do not hesitate to recommend this book to colleagues engaged in research and/or in clinical work within this field.

GRETE KRAG JACOBSEN