

Book Reviews

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Atlas of Breast Cancer

D. Hayes, ed.

Wolfe/Mosby Europe Ltd., 1993, 154 pp, 193 figures, all in colour.

ISBN: 1-56375-010-4

USD 70.-

The aim of this atlas is to introduce the student or non-oncologist physician to the important features and concepts of breast cancer. The atlas is compiled by the author and five co-workers, and is illustrated by specific cases. Both established clinical standards and controversial issues are addressed, although it is not the intent to provide detailed descriptions of the various studies concerning breast cancer. Rather, the atlas is designed for the student, physician, or even the oncologist who wishes to have access to a more graphic depiction of the concepts of the disease and the various modalities that can be used to evaluate and treat it effectively. The atlas presents, in a graphic manner, the basic concepts of causes, diagnosis, and treatment of breast cancer. In all, 12 chapters cover subjects, such as risk factors, epidemiology, anatomy and development, pathology, detection, surgical procedures, radiotherapy, systemic therapy, and treatment of advanced breast cancer. There is also a section on benign breast tumours. An abundance of very clear and didactic colour pictures (some of them from the previously published Atlas of Diagnostic Oncology, edited by A. Skarin) is accompanied by text sections. This beautiful atlas is recommended to all health care providers dealing with breast cancer, and should be very clarifying on issues which are not part of the every-day practice of all readers.

TORSTEN LANDBERG

Breast Cancer Screening in Europe

A. Gad & M. R. Del Turco, eds.

Springer-Verlag, 1993, 148 pp, 25 figures, 39 tables.

ISBN: 3-540-56577-9.

DM 145.--

Whether or not to implement mammographic screening for breast cancer has aroused a heated debate in most western countries, especially intensified during the last decade. The main issues of disagreement comprise essential questions, such as sensitivity and specificity of the method, radiological technique and procedure, the organization of screening programmes, the impact on treatment options and mortality, population selection for screening, and the fear of psychological disadvantages imposed on women attending screening programmes. In addition, the relationship between social costs of a programme and population health effects has been given grave concern.

This monograph goes thoroughly into all these problematic

issues and presents an updated survey of the scientific evidence for a professional recommendation of mammographic screening programmes. Arguments for and against screening have been carefully balanced. Hardly any screening method has been tested so comprehensively as that of mammography. Consequently, based on the evidence of reliability and efficacy of the method, mammographic screening programmes have now been started at national or regional level in most western European countries.

The authors of the 17 chapters of this monograph are among the leading experts in Europe. The scientific work described is very comprehensive and clearly presented. Especially the Swedish randomized trials constitute an important part of the analyses. It is emphasized that the leitmotif of mammographic screening programmes implies adequate and suitable diagnostic and treatment facilities for managing screen-detected breast lesions. This statement is one of several significant messages to be remembered when contemplating mammographic screening. If these prerequisites are not met with, the initiative will inevitably fail. Some authors differ in opinion on various items, for instance the diagnostic significance of fine-needle aspiration cytology. Such controversies disconcert the reader, and a more firm editing of some of the contributions might be useful. In the two last chapters the gremlins have been at work.

The monograph forms a long-requested survey of the background of mammographic screening as well as scientific evidence, planning, and monitoring of screening programmes. Therefore, this book represents an educational cornerstone and is very essential reading for all disciplines involved in mammographic screening.

MOGENS BLICHERT-TOFT

Cancer Pain

R. Patt, ed.

J. B. Lippincott Company, 1992, 608 pp, 167 illustrations

ISBN: 0-397-51138-8

USD 100.--

This book is a comprehensive textbook on cancer pain management as an integrated part of the total medical care for the chronic cancer patient. In some respects it can also serve as a handbook. Within 10 pages in an appendix, all the different types of drugs that may be considered for pain relief are listed. The range of dosage is given together with short guiding comments. The main part of the book covers, in a balanced way, basic pain physiology, pharmacology and the use of drugs, as well as radiotherapy and chemotherapy. The book stresses that the end point for assessment of results in chronic cancer patients should be quality of life (risk versus benefit). The part on invasive procedures for pain relief through CNS-opioids, nerve blocks and neurosurgical interventions occupies one-fourth of the book with details useful to the specialists in these fields. The problems related to children and cancer pain are also well covered.

I recommend this textbook to all doctors who are caregivers to chronic cancer patients. For most questions that can be raised the book gives the background for a balanced decision.

STEINAR HAGEN

ERRATUM

One of the names in the list of authors of the article "Treatment of carcinoid syndrome with recombinant interferon alpha-2a" published in Acta Oncologica volume 32:2, pp. 235-8, was unfortunately incorrectly indicated by the authors themselves. We now present the correct list: Maria Di Bartolomeo, Emilio Bajetta, Nicoletta Zilembo, Filippo de Braud, Angelo Di Leo, Claudio Verusio, Modesto D'Aprile, Alberto Scanni, Antonio Iirillo, Mario Barduagni and Cosimo Epifani.