Book Reviews

Editor: Dr. Torsten Landberg, Department of Oncology, General Hospital, S-214 01 Malmö, Sweden

The Biological Basis of Radiotherapy, 2nd edition

G. G., Steel, G. E. Adams, A. Horwich, eds
Elsevier Science Publishers, Amsterdam, 1989, 336 pp.
ISBN: 0-444-81099-4
DFL 360 Hardback

This new second edition of the book is updated to approximately 1988 as judged from the reference lists in the 21 contributing chapters. It is a very good polygraph covering the most important biological process relevant in radiation therapy. It is an excellent up-to-date review covering such basic areas as radiation action mechanisms, repair, molecular basis of radiosensitivity, cell survival and the response of tumors and normal tissues, the oxygen effect, sensitizers, fractionation, dose rate, heavy particle, chemotherapy, and hyperthermia and it is mainly written by well-known English experts. The book can whole-heartedly be recommended for radiation therapists and physicists interested in the underlying biological mechanisms. The book does not cover in detail more practical aspects of radiation therapy such as quantitative dose response relations for different human tissues and tumors but discusses the underlying mechanisms in detail. The only remaining wish for a possible future 3rd edition would therefore be to bring the subject even closer to the clinical applications.

ANDERS BRAHME

Pediatric Tumors: Immunological and Molecular Markers

J. T. Kemshead, ed.
CRC Press Inc., Boca Raton, Florida, 33431, USA, 1989, 192 pp.
ISBN: 0-8493-6752-2

In this volume several experts review the current knowledge in their particular fields. In the chapter on pathology and epidemiology much space is devoted to traditional techniques, while cytogenetics of the tumors is only briefly mentioned. Very informative are the descriptions of monoclonal antibodies used for the diagnosis of the small round cell tumors and the account of the immunohistological approach to the differential diagnosis of brain tumors. The diagnostic and prognostic usefulness of serologic evaluation using monoclonal and polyclonal antibodies is discussed especially regarding neuroectodermal tumors. One chapter deals with a recent development of ganglioside G_{D2} antibodies as diagnostic and therapeutic tools in neuroblastoma. The targeted radiotherapy in this tumor is exemplified by a radiolabeled monoclonal antibody and a radioiodinated guanidine compound. Still another application of monoclonal antibodies as agents to purge tumor cells from bone marrow is discussed in connection with autologous transplantation. The last three chapters cover some aspects of molecular biology in childhood malignancies such as cancer predisposition genes in retinoblastoma and Wilms' tumor, gene rearrangement in leukemias and lymphomas as well as biological and clinical role of the N-myc oncogene. The monograph is up-to-date, comprehensive and thought provoking.

STANISLAW GARWICZ

Breast Diseases. Breast Conserving Therapy. Non-Invasive Lesions, Mastopathy

F. Kubli, D. Fournier, H. Junkermann, et al., eds.
Berlin, Heidelberg, New York, London, Paris, Tokyo, Hong Kong
Springer-Verlag, 1989, 548 pp.
ISBN: 3-540-19065-1
DM 180 Hardcover

This is yet another book published in 1989 from Springer on breast cancer and related benign problems. There are 97 authors, the majority from FRG, the others mainly from the EEC-countries and Switzerland. The book covers all aspects of the breast cancer disease with the emphasis on breast conserving therapy, both surgery and radiotherapy. It also contains short but well written chapters on benign breast disease, adjuvant chemotherapy and endocrinology as well as the in situ carcinoma problem.

As a whole this book is well worth its price and it is probably the best currently available survey on the clinical state of art concerning early breast cancer disease and related disorders.

LARS BERGLJUNG