

Book Review

Textbook of Radiation Oncology

SA Leibel and TL Phillips (Editors)
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The second edition of this textbook, published 6 years after the first, is edited by two eminent radiation oncologists from the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre, New York, and the University of California, San Francisco. The editors state that their aim was to use contributors that had connections with these institutions in order to present a uniform treatment policy to 'teach the reader how to treat for cure'. With only four of the 123 contributors being based at European institutions, the reader has to be prepared for a North American bias in the presentation of treatment policies and evidence for them. Having said that, this book contains a wealth of information for any radiation oncologist, from a first year trainee upwards.

In the past 6 years, radiotherapy technique has evolved rapidly and this book does a fine job in documenting these changes, aided by 71 colour plates to illustrate the text. As the editors point out, gone are the days of simply memorising 'classical' ports; in their place is a complex process of target identification and definition, treatment delivery and verification. 3D conformal radiotherapy and intensity-modulated radiotherapy (IMRT), a way of conforming dose more accurately to the target volume, is now in widespread use and a particular emphasis is placed on this throughout the book.

The book is divided into four sections: radiation physics and biology, imaging, clinical radiation oncology and emerging radiation modalities. It is well organised with the general principles behind radiotherapy being well explained and illustrated. I particularly enjoyed Kian Ang's 'fractionation in clinical practice', which gave a clear overview of the merits of different fractionation regimens – a perennial 'hot topic' in practice. However, this was where I found the only publishing error apparent to me – an important omission of text pertaining to the late effects of hybrid accelerated fractionation regimens. The overview on chemotherapy and radiotherapy also offers a well-written update on the evidence for chemoradiation and the biological mechanisms of interaction of the two modalities of treatment. The chapter devoted to immobilisation and simulation is excellent, with a clear and logical survey of the principles which will be useful to anyone starting out in radiotherapy.

One of the main strengths of the book is the emphasis on imaging. In recent years, radiation oncologists have been able to use many imaging modalities to help identify the tumour or tumour bed they will be delivering the radiotherapy to. The images acquired from a patient form the basis on which the radiotherapy plan is produced and target definition has developed from a two-dimensional concept to a 3D one. As a result, radiation oncologists have had to redefine what constitutes the 'target', as well as having to identify and outline the target with ever-increasing accuracy. Reflecting the increasing emphasis on interpreting images for

radiotherapy planning, there is a very useful overview of imaging in oncology as well as a whole section devoted to imaging, divided up into site-specific chapters. This will be most useful to anyone with an interest in oncology. Novel imaging approaches such as multimodality image registration and fusion are also covered in depth, with some excellent supporting colour plates and illustrations.

The site-specific chapters in the section devoted to clinical radiation oncology follow a standard layout for most chapters, with sections on incidence, anatomy, pathology, clinical presentation, routes of spread, diagnostic studies, staging, prognostic factors and standard therapeutic approaches. The editors are true to their word and there is a definite emphasis on first-line treatment. There is, relatively, little information given in the treatment of recurrent disease and salvage treatment. While this was the remit of the book, many patients do relapse despite excellent treatment, and many oncologists are faced with this situation daily. Retreatment is a controversial area and a chapter giving an overview on the challenges an oncologist faces in this position would, I'm sure, have been welcomed.

The editors have stressed the importance of modes of spread allowing decisions on target volumes to be made more rationally, which is particularly important with IMRT planning. Modern immobilisation techniques, precise tumour targeting, radiotherapy simulation, treatment delivery and verification are all looked at in depth for each tumour site. Normal tissue reactions as well as late effects are documented, making this clinical section easy to read and informative. There is an excellent chapter on the treatment of benign disease, which adds to the wealth of knowledge presented in the treatment of malignant disease.

The final section on emerging radiation modalities gives an interesting overview on techniques which are yet to become widespread in use. They offer an insight into particle radiation therapy, hyperthermia, photodynamic therapy, tumour-targeted radioisotope therapy and extracranial stereotactic radioablation.

In today's multidisciplinary era, it is unusual to find a textbook with such a focus on decision-making and treatment from the radiation oncologist's point of view. I think this textbook will therefore be enjoyed by any radiation oncologist either in training or as an established practitioner, as well as anyone else who is involved in radiation oncology treatment planning and delivery. I would also expect that medical oncologists would also find this a useful book to have in their library. In my opinion, the editors have achieved what they set out to do.

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Radiation Oncology encompasses all aspects of research that impacts on the treatment of cancer using radiation. It publishes findings in molecular and cellular radiation biology, radiation physics, radiation technology, and clinical oncology. The field of radiation oncology covers the integration of radiation therapy into multimodal treatment approaches. Radiation Oncology provides an open access forum for researchers and clinicians involved in the management and treatment of cancer patients, bringing together the latest research and advances in the field. Advances in treatment technology, as Xxiv, 1674 pages, 71 pages of color plates : 29 cm. Thoroughly revised and updated, the 2nd Edition presents all of the latest advances in the field, including the most recent technologies and techniques. For each tumor site discussed, readers will find unparalleled coverage of multiple treatment plans, histology and biology of the tumor, its anatomic location and routes of spread, and utilization of specialized techniques. This convenient source also reviews all of the basic principles that underlie the selection and application of radiation as a treatment modality, including radiobiology, ra...

Radiation therapy, also referred to as radiotherapy, radiation oncology or therapeutic radiology, is one of the three principal modalities used in treatment of malignant disease (cancer), the other two being surgery and chemotherapy. The intent of the text is to serve as a factual supplement to the various textbooks on medical physics and to provide basic radiation oncology physics knowledge in the form of a syllabus covering all modern aspects of radiation oncology physics. While the text is mainly aimed at radiation oncology professionals, certain parts of it may also be of interest in other branches of medicine that use ionising radiation not for treatment of disease but for diagnosis of disease (diagnostic radiology and nuclear medicine).

Genetics Geriatrics Gynecologic Oncology Hand Surgery Head & Neck Surgery Hematology/Oncology Hospice & Palliative Care Hospital Medicine Infectious Disease Infusion Nursing Internal/General Medicine Internal/General Medicine Residency Library Sciences Maternal Child Nursing Medical Oncology Medical Research Neonatal/Perinatal Neonatal/Perinatal Nursing Nephrology Neurology Neurosurgery Nursing-administrative Nursing-all Specialties Nursing-education Nutrition & Dietetics Obstetrics & Gynecology Obstetrics & Gynecology Nursing Occupational & Environmental Medicine Oncol... Three major radiation oncology textbooks have become reference library staples. Oncologists have come to know these books simply by the editors' namesâ€”Leibel and Phillips, Perez and Brady, Gunderson and Tepperâ€”bestowing on them a nearly iconic status. The first edition of the Textbook of Radiation Oncology, published in 1998, was soon followed by a second (2004), which, owing to its unparalleled ability to concisely and thoroughly present the key topics of radiation treatment, solidified its place as one of the premier reference books in the field. With the death of Steve Leibel prior to