Book Review

ORAL CANCER: DIAGNOSIS, MANAGEMENT, AND REHABILITATION

1st Edition

Editor: John W. Werning

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Hard cover, 368 pages with 350 illustrations and 46 tables
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Although there are many reference textbooks that cover oral cancer comprehensively, “Oral Cancer” by JW Werning is a practical, easy-to-read guide to the management of oral cancer. It provides readers with a systematic review of the diagnostic and treatment principles that maximize the outcomes of patients who have been diagnosed with oral cancer.

Editor JW Werning, M.D., D.M.D., has brought together contributions from authorities in the fields of head and neck surgical oncology, radiation oncology, reconstructive surgery, dentistry, and oral and maxillofacial surgery. This book provides clinicians with the unified management philosophy firmly based upon the available evidence in the peer-reviewed literature.

Unlike more comprehensive texts on head and neck cancer, this text does not address the basic science foundation of cancer biology or medical therapy. Because of its concise format and coverage of key clinical principles, it makes for a good addition to the library of residents or surgeons who manage head and neck cancer.

This book is divided onto 31 chapters in a following order: Epidemiology of Oral Cancer - Oral Precancer - Malignant Lesions of the Oral
reconstructive options that are time tested and effective for restoring form and function.

Chapter on reconstruction of the lips exhaustively covers a technique published in 1974 by Prof. M. Karapandžić from the University of Belgrade, Clinic of Maxillofacial Surgery. The description of that method is concluded with the following statement: „Based on the superior functional and cosmetic results that can be achieved, the Karapandzic flap is arguably the flap of choice for most defects“.

Exhaustive coverage was given to the topics that have until now received limited attention in other textbooks devoted to oral cancer, including the evaluation and management of oral premalignant lesions, osseointegrated implantation and dental implant imaging, and orofacial pain.

“Oral Cancer” is long on management and short on pathophysiology. This makes it concise and attractive for clinicians or residents accumulating information specifically about patient management. Its lack of pathophysiology and basic science limits its utility to residents preparing for the in-service examination. However, it will certainly help students or residents prepare for the next days operation or case presentation. For more senior clinicians, it serves as a well-referenced, up-to-date review on management techniques.

As a clinical text, it directs the reader through difficult subjects; it clearly states which topics are controversial, outlines the relevant studies, and then leads the reader to a fair conclusion of acceptable management practices. In areas in which there is consensus, management options are stated clearly and concisely. Furthermore, it informs the reader when introducing a non-standard treatment (such as radiation therapy for lesions traditionally managed by surgery). For a text addressing oral cavity cancer, it contains significant detail on radiotherapy treatment. Overall, this is a valuable addition to the book, as it is not always as well covered in traditional textbooks. Although the radiation oncology sections are well written with excellent figures, they seem in places excessive for the target audience.

The textbook appropriately concludes with a discussion of future directions in cancer therapy, novel therapeutics that are on the horizon, and options for managing treatment sequelae that can significantly affect a patient’s quality of life.
In what is notably missing for a clinically oriented text, it does not contain an adequate discussion of complications related to surgery or radiotherapy within each chapter, nor does it contain a separate chapter that addresses long-term post-treatment complications.

“Oral Cancer” is an up-to-date and comprehensive guide to the clinical management of oral cancer and its rehabilitation. This book is both an indispensable reference for experienced clinicians and an essential educational tool for residents and other members of the multidisciplinary oral cancer team. Its comprehensive coverage of oral cancer prevention, diagnosis, therapy, reconstruction, and rehabilitation is intended to become an invaluable tool for all who provide a service aimed to improve both therapeutic outcome and quality of life for all patients treated for oral cancer.

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