Comprehensive Clinical ONCOLOGY

CURRENT PRACTICES

Third Edition



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FOREWORD

Comprehensive Clinical Oncology: Current Practices – 3rd Ed

HOPE FOR PROVIDERS AND PATIENTS

We are honored and privileged to compose the Foreword to the Third Edition of Comprehensive Clinical Oncology Current Practices. The oncology community resoundingly welcomed the previous two editions, both edited with knowledge and love by Dr. Cesar Restrepo. These tomes became an indispensable reference (a "book of record," perhaps even a "bible" of sorts) for cancer practitioners in Latin America and throughout the world. The third edition maintains the many excellent features of the previous editions while adding several novel chapters, new contributors and innovative teaching tools.

The rapidity with which knowledge evolves, though stimulating from an intellectual perspective, creates daunting challenges for the practicing clinician who must stay current in order to offer optimal treatment to patients. Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic has introduced new variables which must be prioritized during the decision-making process. This edition of **Comprehensive Clinical Oncology**, which subsumes 64 chapters, is an essential tool for professionals who must keep pace with change and progress. Topics that were addressed in earlier iterations of the book have been thoroughly revised if not revamped. Meanwhile, new topics have been added that shine a spotlight on diseases of emerging importance (e.g., mesothelioma, bone and soft-tissue tumors) or the experience of being an oncologist (e.g., training programs for the next generation of physician-experts), and oncologists training.

Many who have purchased this book work in low- and middle-income countries where economic and racial disparities persist. Even though there may be a scarcity of medical resources in these parts of the world, there cannot be a deficit in knowledge. Consequently, the 3rd edition of **Comprehensive Clinical Oncology** has been written with thoughtfulness and erudition.

We are so fortunate to find ourselves in a moment, when the mortality of not only rare but also common tumors is beginning to decline. This reality has been brought about by advances in basic and clinical research. The dissemination of updated, carefully synchronized information, as presented in these pages, will play a critical role in neutralizing the menacing impact of cancer on modern society. Thus, the latest edition of this textbook will surely bring about education of our colleagues, cure of disease as well as alleviation of suffering among our patients, and a sense of gratitude braided with hope for all readers.

Benjamin W. Corn, MD Raphael Catane, MD Jerusalem

FOREWORD

Comprehensive Clinical Oncology: Current Practices – 2nd Ed

It is with immense pleasure that I author this Foreword to the second edition of the textbook **Comprehensive Clinical Oncology Current Practices**. First and foremost, I must congratulate my dear friend, Dr. Cesar Restrepo, for his vision as well as his leadership which brought this formidable project to fruition. His energy, enthusiasm, dedication, and devotion to the successful completion of this 632 page compendium is attestation to his love of surgery and to his organizational capabilities. While there are many textbooks on oncology, this textbook is unique in that it is truly global as well as completely comprehensive as intimated by the title. The eight sections logically and cogently divide the 55 chapters into types of cancers as well as ultimately cancer metabolism and the history of oncology in Panama. A perusal of the chapter titles leads the reader to very quickly realize that no facet within surgical oncology has been omitted. Furthermore, the table of contents reads as a virtual "who's who" compendium of oncologic leaders throughout the world. The fact that this complete comprehensive compendium authored by internationally renowned luminaries within all of the realms of oncology is a tremendous accomplishment. Attributes which clearly distinguish this work from others include its global cast of others and the inclusion of a myriad of new materials. Moreover, every chapter is authoritatively written, evidence-based, and extensively referenced.

I know that everyone who reads this book will benefit from the wisdom and insights of the authors and given Dr. Restrepo's masterful editorial capabilities will be able to follow the contents in a highly meaningful sequence. Whether one chooses to research individual topics using the table of contents or index, or instead to read the entire 55 chapters from cover to cover, the wealth of information contained in these pages will be a resource for years to come. Again, I thank Cesar for his magnanimity in having asked me to author this foreword to this unique textbook. I know that you, the reader, will benefit as you digest the knowledge contained within this work.

Steven D. Wexner, M.D., PhD(Hon), FACS, FRCS(Eng), FRCS(Ed), FRCSI(Hon), Hon FRCS(Glasg)

PROLOGUE

This book is designed to serve an important gap in our clinical knowledge base, which is that there are no oncology texts describing the key elements of multidisciplinary cancer care focusing on malignant diseases of prevalence in Central and South America as well as the Caribbean. This is a vast and diverse catchment area in which cancer is emerging as a major health challenge on an individual and population-wide basis.

For practitioners who specialize in oncology as well as more general practitioners, medical students and residents in training, it is hoped that this small volume will help address this deficit in compiled oncology information.

The book is organized with a focus on individual diseases that are frequently as well as only occasionally encountered in the target geographic locations. The role of multi-disciplinary care, including the role of diagnostic physicians such as pathologists and radiologists as well as treating physicians, including medical, surgical, and radiation oncologists are concisely yet thoroughly discussed. How to care for specific cancer entities, including addressing oncology care priorities when resources may be scarce, are likewise developed in the context of specific diseases.

The key starting point of developing multi-disciplinary cancer planning conferences is critical, and this is a prospect that increasingly will be aided by teleconference mechanisms connecting physicians, patients, and experts elsewhere in an orchestrated and concerted effort to provide the highest quality care access to all patients burdened by malignant disease.

The format of each chapter is designed to provide immediate access to key information needed to establish an informed therapeutic relationship between caregivers and patients.

A brief list of pertinent and contemporary references is included in each chapter. It is hoped that this very focused volume will prove to be useful to you, and we would be delighted to hear from you with questions, comments, as well as direct feedback on whether or not we have hit our desired targets!

Raphael Pollock, MD Director, The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center Columbus, OH, USA

PROLOGUE

Cancer is serious public health problem in countries of all resource levels. Although major advances in the detection and treatment of the disease have occurred in higher income settings, similar progress has been slow or scarce in most low- and middle- income countries (LMCs).

The poorer outcomes in LMCs may relate to the limited capability of their healthcare systems (HCS) to provide successful early detection, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer.

Impediments to better outcomes include insufficient numbers of appropriately trained healthcare workers, limited access to screening/treatment facilities, inadequate supplies of necessary drugs, and timeliness of treatment after diagnosis.

This initiative, facilitated by Cesar J. Restrepo, MD, and with the participation of prestigious oncologists from various countries around the world, reinforces the importance of the development and training of oncology specialists.

Soon, cancer will be the number one disease in many countries, and we need to prepare for it. Being one step ahead of cancer to help healthcare systems and public policies reduce mortality from cancer worldwide.

Enjoy reading this very elaborate book.

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INTRODUCTION

The main reason for this advancement of the third edition of our book is the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact on cancer patients. With all the adverse effects they make the delay in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer patients. The COVID-19 pandemic transformed reality. Rarely have we had cancer operations labeled as urgent, during this time it has become a norm, rather than an exception: to deal with lockdowns, delays in detection and diagnosis, delays or interruptions in cancer treatments. Surgery, unless urgent due to bleeding, perforation or obstruction, was initially limited to avoid patients or medical personnel contagion with the virus 21st century Pandemic.

Lung cancer and those caused by infections will be those with the greatest increase. In the rich area of the planet, prostate, colon and breast cancer will continue to have the highest incidence. Developing countries will suffer the evils of tobacco, which generates 12 percent of their cancer cases, a percentage that continues to grow. Another 25 percent of cases find their origin in chronic diseases. Researchers estimate that by the year 2030, 1.7 million cancer cases will be diagnosed in Latin America and the Caribbean and more than one million deaths from cancer.

Panama, like many other Latin American countries was affected by The COVID-19 Pandemic. The impact will be seen on a short, medium and long range. In order to save our patients, we are implementing a Damage control strategy(DCS): first Stratification of our patients in Urgent, Priority and non-priorities. The stratification can be with letters or numbers. During our General Surgery Residency Training a classification of priorities that worked well was CIDUR (Spanish Acronym for CIRUGIA DE URGENCIA) (Dr. Enero Aviles personal communication). Multiple technologic changes, multiple virtual conferences and meetings were developed during the 2020, 2021 and 2022.

This Book has 64 chapters, including one which tells the History of Oncology in Panama, linked to the History of Panama and the World.

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	TABLE OF CONTENTS	Page		
SECTION I	COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND CANCER			
Chapter 1	The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Cancer Patients from Low and Middle Income Countries	3		
Chapter 2	COVID-19 Pandemic Surgery Guidance	19		
T	Republished paper from 4open by EDP Science			
SECTION II	SOFT TISSUE SARCOMA			
Chapter 3	Soft Tissue Sarcoma	43		
SECTION III HEAD AND NECK CANCER				
Chapter 4	Introduction to Head and Neck Cancer	69		
Chapter 5	Immunotherapy in Head and Neck Cancer	81		
Chapter 6	Advances in Radiotherapy and Chemotherapy as Organ Preservation in Head and Neck Cancer	87		
Chapter 7	Molecular Biology in Head and Neck Cancer	93		
Chapter 8	Molecular Target Therapies in the Treatment of Head and Neck Cancer	103		
Chapter 9	Neoplasms of the Anterior Cranial Fossa and Paranasal Sinuses	107		
Chapter 10	Nasopharynx Cancer	117		
Chapter 11	Oropharynx Cancer	123		
Chapter 12	Oral Cavity Cancer	129		
Chapter 13	Hypopharynx Cancer	145		
Chapter 14	Larynx Cancer	151		
Chapter 15	Malignant Tumors of the Parotid Gland	165		
SECTION IV	THYROID CANCER			
Chapter 16	Thyroid Cancer	173		
Chapter 17	Differentiated Thyroid Cancer – Surgical Considerations	189		
SECTION V	BREAST CANCER			
Chapter 18	Breast Cancer Surgical Treatment	201		
Chapter 19	Radical Surgical Treatment of Breast Cancer	213		
Chapter 20	Surgical Treatment of Locally Advanced Breast Cancer – LABC	217		
Chapter 21	Surgical Treatment of Breast Cancer After Neoadjuvant Systemic Therapy	225		
Chapter 22	Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy	243		
Chapter 23	COVID-19 and Breast Cancer	251		
Chapter 23	CO VID-17 and Dicast Cancer	431		
SECTION VI GASTRIC CANCER				
Chapter 24	Gastric Cancer	267		
SECTION VII PANCREATIC CANCER				
Chapter 25	Adenocarcinoma of the Pancreas	279		

SECTION V	TII LIVER, BILIARY CANCER	
Chapter 26	Historical Aspects of Liver Surgery	303
Chapter 27	Morphologic Anatomy	307
Chapter 28	Liver Regenerative Properties	313
Chapter 29	Hepatocellular Carcinoma – HCC	317
Chapter 30	Liver Metastases	335
Chapter 31	Gallbladder Cancer	343
Chapter 32	Cholangiocarcinoma	351
Chapter 33	Hepatoblastoma	357
Chapter 34	Intrahepatic Cholangiocarcinoma	365
Chapter 35	Intraoperative Ultrasonography in Liver Surgery	385
Chapter 36	Interventional Radiology in Hepatobiliary Pathologies	397
Chapter 37	Interventional Radiology – Liver Thermal Ablation	399
Chapter 38	Interventional Radiology – Portal Vein Embolization	403
Chapter 39	Interventional Radiology – Loco Regional Therapies	407
SECTION I	X UROLOGICAL CANCER	
Chapter 40	Kidney Cancer	415
Chapter 41	Bladder Cancer	431
Chapter 42	Testicular Cancer	447
Chapter 43	Prostate Cancer	463
SECTION X	UTERINE CANCER	
Chapter 44	Endometrial Polyps	483
Chapter 45	Ovarian Cancer Surgery	489
Chapter 46	Cervical Cancer	501
SECTION X	I COLORECTAL AND ANUS CANCER	
Chapter 47	Adenocarcinoma of the Colon	523
Chapter 48	Rectal Cancer	533
Chapter 49	Anal Cancer	543
Chapter 50	Other Benign and Malignant Tumors of the Bowel	549
Chapter 51	Management of Colorectal Liver Metastases	571
SECTION X	III MELANOMA	
Chapter 52	Epidemiology of Melanoma in Latin America	585
Chapter 53	Epidemiology of Cutaneous Melanoma in South America	591
Chapter 54	Clinical Diagnosis of Cutaneous Melanoma	595
Chapter 55	Treatment of Primary Cutaneous Melanoma	601
Chapter 56	Ocular, Mucosal, Subungual and Leptomeningeal Melanoma	607
Chapter 57	Past, Present and Future of Melanoma Sentinel Lymph Node Surgery	617
Chapter 58	Management of Locoregional and Distant Recurrence	631
Chapter 59	A Potential Role for Resveratrol & Other Phytochemicals in Cancer	639
	Chemoprevention and Therapy	

SECTION X	III CANCER METABOLISM	
Chapter 60	Targeting Cancer Metabolism	651
SECTION X	IV TRAINING	
Chapter 61	Training of the Medical Oncologist	677
Chapter 62	Training of Radiation Oncologists	679
Chapter 63	Training of Surgical Oncologists	683
Chapter 64	General Principles of Radiotherapy	685