This book is one of few available in a case series format focusing specifically on upper aerodigestive tract site malignancies, and uniquely including systematic evaluation and management of functional outcomes in a multidisciplinary fashion. Each patient is described comprehensively and chronologically according to diagnostic and management events: first describing initial symptoms, case history, and diagnostic workup; followed by interventions and outcomes related to cancer, speech, and swallowing; and finally, the authors provide a short list of relevant points for reflection and generalizability. Cases span various cancer treatments, from minimally invasive robotic surgery to combined modality protocols involving radiation and chemotherapy. Accompanying most cases are online (password protected) multimedia samples of the patients’ test results. These samples are high-quality audio and video clips depicting patients’ baseline speech, voice, and swallowing status, as well as critical changes in these areas over the diagnostic and treatment course. A large variety of speech–language pathology interventions are profiled, including intensive oral exercises for both speech and swallowing. The specific patient case materials are supported throughout the book with several substantive sections providing more general overviews of head and neck cancer rehabilitation issues.

In total, 15 patient cases are presented. Thirteen of these cases are grouped according to cancer site: oral cavity (3 cases); nasopharynx (1 case); oropharynx (5 cases); hypopharynx (1 case); and larynx (4 cases). The remaining case describes the management and treatment of a patient with head and neck lymphedema. Cases are presented as 15 separate chapters, written by multidisciplinary clinical teams from reputable head and neck cancer programs throughout the United States. Across all cases, the professions most commonly represented within the multidisciplinary teams include speech–language pathology, surgical oncology, radiation oncology, medical oncology, nutrition, and nursing. To supplement the specific case-based content, 7 chapters are dedicated to broader head and neck cancer–related topics, such as typical demographics for the patient population; goals and structure of the multidisciplinary team both generally and specific to select cancer sites; options for augmentative and alternative communication; rehabilitation of alaryngeal communication; the patients’ overall experience with head and neck cancer; and implications of health literacy on establishing patient-centered management goals.

This book serves as a unique reference for all head and neck cancer clinicians, regardless of discipline and experience. The content is varied, covering many head and neck cancer sites, providing thorough details related to management of speech, voice, and swallowing according to a multidisciplinary perspective. This material is presented clearly, with examples, and segmented logically into separate chapters. This format ensures the information is easily accessible and useful to both the novice clinician that is aiming to acquire a comprehensive understanding about head and neck cancer management, as well as the experienced clinician who needs a handy reference source for their own use, or to supplement their clinical teaching with students, interns, and residents. Given each case is presented from the multidisciplinary perspective and that all cancer treatments to some level impact voice, speech, and swallowing, this book will be of interest to all members of the multidisciplinary team. The language is at times technical, yet the writing is easy, logical, and supported with helpful illustrations and multimedia clips. Multidisciplinary teams in all head and neck cancer facilities both within the United States and beyond will find this a valuable resource.

The case-based approach utilized in this book is not unique; however, this is the first time it is applied to the topic of head and neck cancer focusing on a multidisciplinary management approach, with a particular focus on speech, voice and swallowing status, and rehabilitation. Given this focus, there will be a natural attraction to speech–language pathologists. However, the uniqueness of this book is how it places importance on the multidisciplinary team rather than any specific discipline alone. This message is an important one to help teams maximize their collaborative intervention efforts and ensure that their patients with head and neck cancer are provided the best and most systematic management for issues related to speech and swallowing outcomes.

In summary, this book offers a comprehensive reference valuable to all head and neck cancer clinicians, regardless of discipline, experience, and geographic area of practice. From an academic perspective, this book is also valuable to supplement the training of novice clinicians in the area of head and neck multidisciplinary management, both in a broad sense and specifically to select head and neck cancer sites.

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