BOOK REVIEW

HEAD AND NECK CANCER, MULTIMODALITY MANAGEMENT, 2ND ED, EDITOR: JACQUES BERNIER

Jeffrey C. Liu

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This second edition reference book *Head and Neck Cancer, Multimodality Management*, edited by Dr Jacques Bernier, is a treatise to the modern management of head and neck cancer. This expansive textbook spans 52 chapters and 875 pages text. The book is roughly divided into 4 major parts. In the first part, epidemiology and etiology of head and neck cancer are covered. Biomarker and basic science for the clinician is also covered with chapters discussing genetics/epigenetics of cancer, human papillomavirus, Epstein-Barr virus, and tumor immunology.

The second part focuses on key diagnostic and therapeutic modalities. Besides covering advances in ultrasound and other imaging techniques, there are chapters that focus on tumor metabolism, tumor hypoxia, and preclinical models in head and neck cancer. In addition, multiple chapters present new therapeutics, including the latest in intensity-modulated radiotherapy, stereotactic radiotherapy, and proton beam therapy. Chemotherapy and contemporary molecular targets are discussed, as well as advances in transoral laser and robotic approaches.

The next group of chapters is the most expansive, focusing on specific head and neck subsites and pathologies. The chapter list covers the basics, including cancers of the oral cavity, oropharynx, larynx/hypopharynx, and their reconstruction, all with up-to-date multidisciplinary presentation. Dedicated chapters also cover unusual pathologies and clinical situations, including mucosal melanomas, paragangliomas, thyroid cancer, and the unknown primary. The last dozen chapters focus on an eclectic mix of chapters. For example, the elderly patient with head and neck cancer, quality of life measures, nanomedicine, and rehabilitation are some of the complimentary chapters in this final section.

There are a number of elements that set this textbook apart. First, the author list reflects the wide and varied expertise within. Unlike other books in which authors are from a limited geography or specialty, the author list boasts experts from all over the United States, multiple European countries, the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Japan, and Canada. Expertise also comes from a variety of specialties, including radiology, pulmonary, medicine, and psychiatry, as well as the core head and neck specialties.

Second, the textbook is heavily multidisciplinary. Although other textbooks may focus on a single disease or treatment type, this textbook distills data from multiple disciplines, discussing the best in surgical and nonsurgical management. Where appropriate, chapters are often rich with color figures and illustrations. The images are high quality and compliment the text nicely. References are extensive and contemporary.

Finally, the inclusion of uncommon subjects adds to the depth of this reference. Increasingly, an understanding of molecular biology and translational science is needed to appreciate the rationale for head and neck cancer treatment. The first dozen chapters highlight specific molecular concepts and are written for the clinician. In addition, the last dozen chapters focus on the important role of other practitioners – speech language pathologists, psychiatrists, and rehabilitation medicine – in the comprehensive care of patients with head and neck cancer.

Overall, this textbook is a wonderful text for head and neck surgeons in both early and later careers. For the early career surgeon, the chapters provide uncommon depth in the evaluation and treatment of a variety of cancers. For those later in career, the textbook is a comprehensive update to the current multidisciplinary care of patients with head and neck cancer.

ORCID

Jeffrey C. Liu MD © http://orcid.org/0000-0001-8377-0905

Jeffrey C. Liu, MD @
Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University
E-mail: Jeffrey.Liu@temple.edu