PRACTICAL HEAD AND NECK ONCOLOGY

Practical Head and Neck Oncology is a valuable addition to the library of the head and neck surgeon. The book represents a comprehensive, clinically oriented text for those treating patients with head and neck neoplasms. The style and content of the text are “practical,” as described in the title of the work, and will be especially useful as a reference for head and neck surgeons in training. As such, the book’s content will not only be referenced by head and neck oncology surgeons but also used and approachable to generalists, other head and neck cancer specialists, and residents and fellows. This text not only covers the oncologic diseases of the head and neck but also added topics of critical interest to the practicing head and neck surgeon.

Practical Head and Neck Oncology is a first edition textbook that comprises 30 chapters. Chapters 1 through 9 are devoted to issues ancillary to the surgical treatment of head and neck cancers. This section incorporates a well-written description of the head and neck physical exam, including transnasal esophagoscopy, and similarly strong chapters on head and neck pathology, anesthesia considerations, and medical malpractice. Other chapters in this section include preoperative evaluation, radiation therapy, chemotherapy, and dental considerations. The chapter on radiologic evaluation in this section contains a nice discussion of positron emission tomography (PET)/CT and ultrasound, but it could contain more radiologic images for review.

The second grouping of topics within the textbook consists of chapters 10 through 25. In this section, each chapter gives a thorough description of a specific anatomic site or histologic type of head and neck cancer. Many of the chapters are arranged around a format that includes the following: unique and key terms, epidemiology, anatomy, critical elements of the history and physical exam, diagnostic work-up, imaging, staging, histopathology, critical decision points, and treatment. Beyond the most commonly discussed head and neck cancers, this section also includes well-written chapters on endocrine and salivary gland malignancies as well as discussion of unknown primary cancers, management of the neck, and lymphoreticular neoplasms. Other highlights of this section include the chapters on cutaneous malignancy, oral cavity cancers, and oropharyngeal cancers.

The final section of Practical Head and Neck Oncology contains 5 chapters dedicated to other secondary issues relevant to head and neck oncologic surgery. The first chapter describes surgery after radiation therapy or chemoradiation therapy and is a timely addition given the current widespread use of organ-preservation therapy as first-line treatment for many cancer sites. The themes of reconstruction and rehabilitation are then explored with chapters on head and neck reconstruction, rehabilitation of speech and swallowing, and use of prosthetics in the head and neck. The final chapter of the text gives useful and much needed instruction on reporting and interpreting results of head and neck cancer treatment.

In summary, Practical Head and Neck Oncology is a nice addition to the library of those treating patients with head and neck cancer. While some chapters are not far-reaching in the detail provided, many are, and the book itself is comprehensive in scope. Practical Head and Neck Oncology contains chapters exploring several pressing issues to the head and neck surgeon today and is accessible to readers at many levels. In balance, the book is a valuable addition to the head and neck oncology literature.

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