

PREFACE

The rapid growth in the number of options available for the management of colorectal cancer presents the clinician with new opportunities and new complexities. An explosion of understanding in the basic science that underlies both the disease and its potential therapies has translated into remarkable technological advances that can now be applied. So many specialties and subspecialties have now been brought to bear that it is appropriate to attempt to bring the expertise from these areas together in one volume, so that practitioners in one aspect of colorectal cancer management can maintain knowledge and expertise regarding the capabilities of other colleagues working in this disease.

Colorectal Cancer: Multimodality Management provides a concise, focused, and current review of the methodological and technological advances that have recently occurred in the management of colorectal cancer. The book has been divided into six basic parts. The first part, dealing with epidemiology and prevention, focuses on the molecular genetic events that occur in the development of colorectal cancer, as well as on our understanding of dietary and environmental factors, and possible strategies for prevention. Part II focuses on both diagnostic and therapeutic radiology in the management of colorectal cancer, dealing with innumerable advances in imaging, and with the progress in the science and art of radiation therapy. The third section deals with the surgical aspects of management of colorectal cancer, starting with surgical pathology. Specifics of surgery for the colon and rectum, the role of minimal access surgery, management of early stage disease, and issues of resection of metastatic disease are discussed. Also, ablative techniques such as cryosurgery and radiofrequency ablation are reviewed. The fourth main area is medical oncology. This part starts with a review of fluorouracil and biomodulation, and moves forward into a thorough discussion of the currently available drugs for first and second line management of metastatic colorectal cancer. Issues of chemotherapy for adjuvant management are discussed, and local regional therapies, such as intrahepatic and intraperitoneal chemotherapy, are reviewed. Part V, entitled Supportive Management, deals with aspects of pain syndromes and pain control, issues of sexuality and fertility, and complementary and alternative medicine approaches. Finally in a forward-looking conclusion, Part VI discusses some of the new agents in development in colorectal cancer, including targeted therapies, vaccine strategies, and gene therapy.

The aim of *Colorectal Cancer: Multimodality Management* is to provide a well-balanced, authoritative, evidence-based review of the current approaches to the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of colorectal cancer. We have seen decreases in both incidence and mortality from this disease over the past several decades. It is hoped that this book will further facilitate the dissemination of information to practitioners, and will thereby help contribute to further progress in the prevention and treatment of colorectal cancer.

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