

The second edition of *Thyroid Cancer: A Comprehensive Guide to Clinical Management* marks the publication of a markedly updated and expanded volume that covers all aspects of the etiology, pathogenesis, diagnosis, initial treatment, and long-term management of all varieties of thyroid cancer. Like the first edition, it will serve as a valuable reference source for pathologists, endocrine surgeons, endocrinologists, nuclear medicine physicians, and oncologists. However, the biggest change is that the second edition is significantly enlarged and expanded to encompass important and extensive treatments of more topics related to nuclear medicine. Nuclear medicine physicians and procedures play a key role in the management of thyroid cancer patients and in retrospect, a comprehensive discussion of topics related to that field was somewhat lacking in the first edition. This has been fully remedied with the addition of Dr. Douglas Van Nostrand as co-editor of this second edition. This edition now includes extensive discussion of isotopes, isotope uptake and scanning procedures, radioiodine ablation (with or without recombinant human TSH), stunning, dosimetry (with or without recombinant human TSH), octreotide and FDG-PET scanning and other alternative imaging modalities. There is a valuable reference atlas of scan images and illustrations, and a scholarly summary of the side effects of radioiodine and how to avoid or minimize adverse effects of treatment. In addition to an updated section on ultrasonography of the thyroid gland, new chapters on ultrasonography of cervical lymph nodes and imaging for thyroid cancer employing computerized tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) have been added.

When the first edition was published in 2000, it was intended to meet the needs of practicing physicians for up-to-date clinically relevant information concerning the diagnosis and management of patients with thyroid cancer. The book received considerable acclaim and filled a void in the endocrine literature as a guide and reference source on the topics covered. Much has occurred in the field in the past five years that justifies publication of this, an updated and extensively expanded, second edition. The topics of all of the new chapters are too lengthy to list here, and the reader is referred to the Table of Contents. Again, the various chapters are written by highly knowledgeable experts, including many who

are new to this edition. The authors provide not only the most current review of their respective areas, but also their own recommendations and approach. The reader is forewarned that in many cases these approaches, albeit rooted in available data, may be empiric rather than based upon clear-cut results of well-controlled clinical trials. Nevertheless, controversial issues are examined and evidence-based recommendations are presented when available.

There are updated chapters on our current state of knowledge of the molecular changes in thyroid cancer, molecular markers, and how targeted therapies are being developed. New therapeutic trials of redifferentiation agents to restore the sodium iodide symporter when lacking and more traditional chemotherapies are discussed, with referral sources listed for entry of patients into Phase 1-3 clinical trials. Happily, most patients with well differentiated thyroid cancer have an excellent prognosis when managed early and appropriately. But contributing authors also present their approaches to the management of more difficult cases, those with extensive bone metastases, those with negative isotope scans but high serum thyroglobulin, and those patients with positive antithyroglobulin antibodies that interfere with measurement of serum thyroglobulin.

Thyroid cancer is fortunately rare in children, but special problems apply to the pediatric population when it does occur. The sections on both differentiated thyroid cancer and medullary thyroid cancer in children have been updated with particular attention to the need for cautious approaches to radioiodine scanning and treatment to minimize radiation exposure. Thyroid cancer occurring under unique circumstances is well covered, such as during pregnancy, in thyroglossal duct cysts, and struma ovarii, as well as the special problem related to radioiodine therapy in the end stage renal patient with thyroid cancer. The rationale and methods for the use of low iodine diets are presented with practical guidelines for the patient, as are radiation safety guidelines (for both physicians and patients) for radioiodine therapy with sample formats and worksheet documents, and a list of resources for more information for patients. And finally, newer such locally ablative techniques to destroy metastatic foci as ethanol

instillation and laser and radiofrequency ablation are discussed.

In general, the same format used in the first edition is again employed, that of separating each type of thyroid cancer and having authors separately address clinical presentation, diagnosis, surgery, pathology, followup, treatment, and prognosis for each tumor. This arrangement allows the reader to quickly refer to the specific cancer in his or her patient, with everything and anything that they need to know in one place in a concise, readable format. This format works well in most but not all cases, with some obvious overlap in the management of the two well-differentiated cancers, papillary and follicular, and so some discussions of these two tumors is combined when appropriate. Sepa-

rate sections deal with Hürthle cell cancer, thyroid lymphoma, and more rare and unusual tumors of the thyroid. Given the publication deadlines for manuscript submission, the most current reference citations possible are provided in the bibliography of each chapter.

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Thyroid Cancer

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