

Foreword

Cancer of the thyroid gland may be a less common condition than carcinoma of the breast, lung, or colon, but it occurs with sufficient frequency to constitute a major problem that is of concern to general practitioners, physicians, and particularly surgeons. Some idea of the frequency of thyroid carcinoma is given by its incidence in the United States. Every year some 26,000 patients are diagnosed there as suffering from thyroid cancer. Comparable figures apply to most countries in Europe although the incidence does vary somewhat from country to country, perhaps depending on the endogenous iodine intake. Of the 21,000 patients diagnosed annually in the United States, two thirds will be women, and some 800 will die of the disease during the year.

This book should do much to improve the outcome in the treatment of thyroid cancer. First because it is written by a small team of experts of international repute. Secondly their wide experience of the condition allows them to write with authority and thirdly they express their views in clear and commendable English.

There is no evasion of the difficulties that confront those who have to treat thyroid cancer. The condition usually declares itself by the appearance of a lump, often very small, in the patient's neck. The general practitioner who is usually the first port of call for the patient seldom has the facilities to investigate the matter further, but it is essential that he or she is familiar with the further diagnostic steps that must be taken. This knowledge brings increased interest to the general practitioner's professional life and allows him or her to support the patient on the long path the patient will have to follow in the weeks or months to come.

At last we have in this book a really authoritative, comprehensive and very readable book on a condition that all members of the medical profession are likely to encounter at some time in their professional lives. Recent advances in the availability of different radioisotopes of iodine, new techniques for the imagining of these isotopes and for the rapid measurement of thyroid hormones and thyroid autoantibodies have revolutionized the diagnosis and management of cancer of the thyroid gland. With our enhanced understanding and knowledge, the prognosis for patients with thyroid cancer has much improved and will improve even further when the knowledge contained in this book has been widely absorbed by members of the medical and nursing professions at large. To these professionals this book will be a delight because there is nowadays very little disagreement as to what is the best and most effective way to treat thyroid cancers and these ways are clearly set out in this highly commendable book.

Sir Richard Bayliss

<http://www.springer.com/978-1-85233-910-4>

Practical Management of Thyroid Cancer

A Multidisciplinary Approach

Mazzaferri, E.L.; Harmer, C.; Mallick, U.K.; Kendall-Taylor,

P. (Eds.)

2006, XV, 445 p., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-1-85233-910-4