

Preface

Management options for patients with colorectal cancer have undergone dramatic changes over the past decade. Whereas at the start of 1996 only one drug, 5-Fluorouracil, was available for the treatment of this disease, a mere 10 yr later, six drugs are licensed for use in colorectal cancer, and others are in the late phases of clinical development. Likewise, surgical and ablative options, as well as an array of supportive medications, have shown substantial progress and undergone a dramatic proliferation over the past decade.

With the increased number of therapeutic options from which to choose, the clinician is better able to offer effective therapy to the patient with colorectal cancer. The clinician is challenged, however, to keep up with the rapidly changing landscape and the rapidly emerging data that shape the options for treatment today and tomorrow. In this text, leaders in the management of colorectal cancer review the current literature that has led us to where we are today. Critical evaluations of the data are offered, and evidence-based recommendations are made.

The initial chapters update the current thinking on the biology of colorectal cancer, and methods of possible prevention, both from the points of view of chemoprevention and screening. The state of the art for use of both cytotoxic chemotherapy and the incorporation of the newer biological therapies are then reviewed. Practical chapters on radiological evaluation of colorectal cancer treatment, and nursing issues related to supporting the patient through chemotherapy are then presented. An additional chapter focuses on the specifics of pain management in colorectal cancer patients. Finally, a forward-looking chapter explores possible new paradigms under development for colorectal cancer treatment in the future.

The goal of *Colorectal Cancer: Evidence-Based Chemotherapy Strategies* is to offer the practitioner a concise, authoritative reference, so that the knowledge gained over recent years can be disseminated, digested, and rapidly applied to clinical practice. Clinicians who treat colorectal cancer are all too cognizant of the extensive work that remains to be done in terms of developing definitive treatments for this disease. While recognizing the long way that we have to go, I hope that *Colorectal Cancer: Evidence-Based Chemotherapy Strategies* will help practitioners appreciate the strengths, as well as the limitations, of the data that have recently emerged, thereby helping to allow all patients to benefit from the progress that has been made thus far.

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Colorectal Cancer

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