

# Preface

Although the first nephrectomy was performed as early as 1867 by Spillgeberg, it was not until 1903 that Gregoire performed the first formal nephrectomy. It was, however, six decades later that Robson published his radical nephrectomy series. Since then radical nephrectomy has become the cornerstone of the surgical treatment of renal cell carcinoma.

During the past decade, urology has been facing rapid changes in the understanding of oncological urology. Changes in surgical treatment strategies accompanied by the availability of newer effective medical therapies have led to improved results. In addition, laparoscopic radical nephrectomy has become the standard of care for the treatment of localized renal cell cancer.

The expanded use of imaging techniques has resulted in detection of an increasing number of small renal cell cancers. For the majority of these tumors, radical nephrectomy is considered overtreatment, and nephron sparing surgeries such as partial laparoscopic nephrectomy or tumor ablative surgery, using various different energy sources, has become routine.

The medical management of renal cell carcinoma has recently experienced an exciting revolution with approvals of new pharmaceuticals in a disease that was previously considered refractory to most therapies. Increasing understanding of the molecular biology of kidney cancer has led to this remarkable progress. Several biologic agents aiming at angiogenesis, growth factors and their pathways have produced extremely dramatic results. In addition, newer sophisticated radiological methods are increasingly being used to evaluate tumor blood flow and response to therapy.

In addition to better treatments this textbook also explores upon improving, making a proper precocious diagnosis and optimizing follow-up. To accomplish this, specific markers need to be developed and imaging modalities should be improved.

This textbook aims at covering the entire field of the current knowledge of renal cell cancer, presented by some of the finest experts in the field. In addition to reflecting upon past and present achievements, this work also aims at addressing possible future developments in this field.

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