

Preface

The incidence of hepatocellular carcinoma is rising in many countries due to the aging population of individuals infected with viral hepatitis as well as the obesity epidemic. Ideally, care of the patient with HCC involves many disciplines including gastroenterology, hepatology, radiology, oncology, surgery, and the primary care physician. The patient affected by liver cancer is a management challenge as the degree of liver function has direct implications in both diagnostic and therapeutic avenues. The field is quickly evolving as a result of new drug development as well as diagnostic and interventional technologies.

This issue of clinics in gastroenterology is a multidisciplinary endeavor, written by expert clinical scientists who not only care for liver cancer patients but will also impact the future of the care they provide.

We begin with an appraisal of the epidemiology and natural history of hepatocellular carcinoma. Drs. Woreta, Hamilton, and Koteish alert the reader to the increasing role HCC will play in health care and its many faces of presentation. Without an understanding of who is at risk to develop the malignancy and how it may present patients will be found at a time when options are limited by advanced disease. Drs. Chowdhury and Satoskar cover the difficult task of identifying which individuals are appropriate for screening and what to use for surveillance. Once a lesion of concern is found, Drs. Thomas, Otto, Giusto, and Jakate discuss the radiologic and pathologic features of liver cancer. However, equally important is identifying what is not a primary hepatoma. This task is beautifully orchestrated by Drs. Wesson and Cameron. Although typically not considered a pediatric affliction, HCC is the second most common malignant liver tumor in children. Drs. Sokollik, Gupta, and Ling review the care of the pediatric patient.

The management of a patient with HCC is dependent on tumor characteristics, the individual's hepatic function, and available therapeutics. Because these management decisions are multidisciplinary, a universal language is imperative. Drs. Bunchorntavakul, Hoteit, and Reddy review the systems used to stage liver tumors. Drs. Nissen and Annamalai clarify liver anatomy and function from a therapeutic perspective. And Drs. Susnow, Baker, and Kulik evaluate therapeutic

modalities, including resection, local-regional and systemic therapies, as well as liver transplantation.

Unfortunately, HCC recurrence is a reality. Drs. Chandok and Marotta discuss the prevention and management of recurrent HCC, and Drs. Dharel and Lau review primary HCC prevention.

Lastly, the arsenal of therapeutic and diagnostic options is exploding. Drs. Pillai, Fimmel, Dhanasekaran, and Cabrera highlight the technologies that are in development.

We are grateful for the dedication and work of our authors in bringing this edition to life. They invested time and energy, and this has resulted in a comprehensive multidisciplinary collection of the current knowledge on the management of hepatocellular carcinoma.

We would also like to thank Daniel Dominguez for his patience and efforts in helping coordinate this work.

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