
Preface

The head and neck is a region of considerable anatomical and functional complexity, making the accurate staging of a head and neck neoplasm a challenging task. Many neoplasms in this region originate from the mucosa, and are detectable by the clinician. However, the submucosal tumor extension, as well as the possible regional and distant disease spread cannot be completely assessed based on the clinical examination alone.

Modern imaging modalities visualize the head and neck structures to an unprecedented level of detail. If carefully performed and interpreted, these techniques allow a comprehensive evaluation of the extent of head and neck neoplasms.

The radiologist is an important member of the multidisciplinary team managing head and neck cancer patients. Recent and ongoing research is enforcing the impact of imaging in oncologic patient care. These new developments are not only focusing on technical advances, such as PET-CT or diffusion-weighted MRI. Also, the impact of existing imaging techniques in treatment choice, in monitoring tumor response and following-up patients after treatment has now been established.

This purpose of this book is to provide a comprehensive review of state-of-the-art head and neck cancer imaging. Several distinguished head and neck radiologists have contributed to this book, fully covering the field of advanced imaging in the head and neck cancer patient.

Compared to the previous edition of this book, several chapters have been rewritten, incorporating recent insights and knowledge. In other chapters, the increasing role of metabolic and functional imaging is included in more detail where appropriate.

Clinical-diagnostic techniques, as well as therapeutic strategies, also have changed significantly over the past years; in this regard I would like to thank my colleague-clinicians from Leuven who contributed to this book. Care has been taken to situate the role of imaging within these developments.

The ultimate goal of all medical actions is to provide our patients with the best possible therapy for their health problems. Hopefully this book contributes to achieving this purpose.

Leuven

Robert Hermans

Head and Neck Cancer Imaging

Hermans, R. (Ed.)

2012, XIV, 413 p., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-642-17868-9