

Preface

The idea behind this book stems from the apparent complexity of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), as its management and prognosis are influenced by two separate yet interacting diseases, namely the underlying liver disease, which is often inflammatory, and the HCC. All textbooks mention this and systematically explore the causes, modifying factors, radiological tests and the many treatment options of both sets of diseases. The aim of this new text is to synthesize these various influences, especially with regard to therapy choices. Also, summaries have been included at intervals throughout the text, which are written with less medical jargon for readers who may not have a medical background, such as patients, families, caregivers and medical non-specialists. Advances in more effective hepatitis therapies, radiological diagnosis, non-surgical (medical) therapies, and therapy combinations have resulted in a flux of new ideas in the last 5 years and this can be expected to continue as various new medical therapies are evaluated in clinical trials, alone or in combination, as well as in combination with surgical therapies. The words cancer/tumor and therapy/treatment are used interchangeably. The basic idea is that this is a tale of two diseases and for patients with HCC, each cannot be considered in isolation any more than treatment options can only be considered in a whole patient context, and by a multidisciplinary team.

Understanding Liver Cancer

A Tale of Two Diseases

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