
Preface

Learning the correct approach for managing solid tumors represents a large part of medical/surgical residency training. The demand for an oncology textbook that is tailored to the needs of both learners and teachers is high. One might expect to see a plethora of surgical oncology textbooks readily available to accommodate such a demand; unfortunately, this is not the case. Despite a handful of excellent surgical oncology textbooks out there, most either lack sufficient depth and/or contain information that may not be practical or germane to the learners.

This textbook, *Surgical Oncology: A Practical and Comprehensive Approach*, provides a comprehensive perspective on surgical oncologic diseases that are relevant to those who have an interest in surgical oncology. Its purpose is to distill a voluminous amount of information into one book so that readers can readily access relevant information and knowledge according to their particular needs. Medical students and residents will find this textbook useful in preparing for surgical case presentations and written/oral tests. For the surgical oncology fellows, the book not only provides the already mentioned advantages, but also serves as a guide and a beginning point to help them further explore specific topics more in-depth. For the busy general surgeons who care for cancer patients, this book serves an invaluable source to help them better manage their patients while staying abreast with the latest advances in the field. Finally, for the educators (staff members, academicians, etc.), this book can serve as a valuable teaching tool to save them from spending countless hours searching for relevant teaching materials.

Each chapter is written by experts and their colleagues in their respective field of expertise. The chapters provide concise and in-depth information on the topic at hand. Seminal articles are highlighted throughout the book to reinforce the principle that optimal management depends not only on good clinical judgment, but also on evidence-based medicine. Plenty of illustrations, diagrams, tables, and photographs are included to assist the visual learners. The unique outline of the book is that each chapter begins with key points to focus the readers on the materials covered and concludes with an appendix that summarizes the chapter with salient points. This unique set-up can be used as a tool to quickly review the topic at hand. *Surgical Oncology: A Practical and Comprehensive Approach* also includes a set of short questions and answers at the end of each chapter to reinforce key learning points.

One of the problems with currently published surgical textbooks is that the information contained therein may become outdated and obsolete by the time

they are published. However, by publishing a textbook with (eBook) capability, we can achieve our objectives – mainly to publish a practical oncology text that is geared towards the needs of the practicing surgeon, surgical oncology fellow, surgical residents, and medical students while at the same time have the flexibility to readily update the information to match current practices.

Surgical Oncology: A Practical and Comprehensive Approach is a book that includes topics that are germane to a broad range of audiences who have an interest in surgical oncology. Those interested in surgical oncology will gain an in-depth knowledge on traditional topics such as breast cancer, thyroid cancer, melanoma, gastric cancer, colorectal cancer, esophageal cancer, hepatobiliary cancers, sarcomas, and gastrointestinal stromal. In addition, topics such as local treatment of early rectal cancer, breast cancer in pregnancy, and management of colorectal metastases to the liver are examples of other topics that will be emphasized.

Although topics such as urologic cancers, neurosurgical cancers, and childhood cancers are important, they are not necessarily an important part of general surgical training in many healthcare centers in the USA. Therefore, these topics are excluded from *Surgical Oncology: A Practical and Comprehensive Approach*.

We believe that *Surgical Oncology: A Practical and Comprehensive Approach* will be an invaluable resource for any serious learners of surgical oncology and will become a must-have textbook for training programs.

Shreveport, LA, USA
Neptune, NJ, USA
Shreveport, LA, USA

Quyen D. Chu, MD, MBA, FACS
John F. Gibbs, MD, FACS
Gazi B. Zibari, MD, FACS

Surgical Oncology

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Chu, Q.D.; Gibbs, J.F.; Zibari, G.B. (Eds.)

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