
Preface

Over the past decade, great efforts have been made toward refining the clinical systems used to stage localized pancreatic cancer. As the benefits of the administration of preoperative therapy have increasingly become recognized, and as the performance of vascular resection and reconstruction at pancreatectomy has concurrently become more common, many infiltrative cancers that were historically considered unresectable are now more commonly described as “borderline resectable.” Tumors in this category are those that are technically removable, but which are associated with a significant likelihood of a positive margin when surgery is performed *de novo*. Given that the overall survival rate of patients who undergo margin-positive operations is similar to that of patients who do not undergo surgery at all, recognition of borderline resectable pancreatic cancer as a unique clinical entity is critical, both for optimal patient care and for the proper evaluation of novel (neo) adjuvant treatment regimens in clinical trials.

In this book, we have assembled an internationally recognized group of clinical experts to compile an up-to-date appraisal of the diagnostic and therapeutic modalities used for patients with borderline resectable pancreatic cancer. The book includes an overview of clinical staging, a review of endoscopic approaches, a summary on the latest clinical research, and a discussion of emerging targeted therapies. We also present several well-illustrated surgical chapters on novel technical strategies and techniques that may be utilized to safely manage this difficult group of patients in the operating room.

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Finally, we would like to dedicate this book to the patients and families who have battled pancreatic cancer. It is their courage and bravery that motivate and inspire us on a daily basis.

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