
Preface

It is with great excitement that we present the first edition of *Oncologic Emergency Medicine: Principles and Practice*. Against the backdrop of rising numbers of cancer patients and survivors as the US population ages and a forecast shortage of cancer care providers, this book is designed to serve as the first authoritative, single-source clinical reference on oncologic emergencies. This comprehensive text was specifically designed to address the complexities of understanding and managing cancer emergencies with an emphasis on increasing communication and collaboration between emergency physicians and the multiple providers who participate in caring for those with cancer.

The contributors include a broad spectrum of experts in emergency medicine, surgical and medical oncology, hematology, diagnostic and interventional radiology, palliative care, psychiatry, critical care, dermatology, ophthalmology, clinical pharmacy, addiction psychology, and health services research (including epidemiology, outcome disparities, health economics, and bioethics).

Emergency departments account for approximately one-half of all hospital admissions, and this proportion is likely higher for those with cancer. While the largest portion of the book focuses on a number of clinical oncologic emergencies and their varied presentations to the emergency department, this text offers the opportunity to address more broadly and systematically the vantage point of emergency physicians who work in a critical hub of patient care: the emergency department. Emergency department visits resulting from disease progression as well as toxicities of anticancer treatments serve as a patient-oriented metric of cancer care quality. This text emphasizes the critical importance of emergency department care within a comprehensive cancer treatment system. The principles of care will be similar whether the emergency department is in a dedicated clinical cancer care facility or a matrix care structure. The methods of executing best practices may differ based on the structure of the cancer care system; however, the vast majority of emergency care for those with cancer is similar across emergency department settings, whether in academic or community settings.

The text is structured to cover four fundamental areas of emergency care:

Part I is centered on systems and contextual issues surrounding the emergency department. We discuss existing models of emergency department care, the evolving role of quality measures for oncologic emergency medicine, ethics of care, rapid healthcare learning systems, and the important roles of emergency department social workers and patient navigators.

Part II, capably edited by Steven Bernstein, considers the role of emergency medicine in primary and secondary cancer prevention, including smoking cessation, cervical cancer prevention and detection, ionizing radiation exposure, as well as a discussion of radio terrorism.

Part III will seem perhaps the most familiar to readers and includes considerations of a variety of oncologic emergencies, organized by organ systems, cancer type, and treatment-related toxicities. We appreciate the work of our associate editor, Jim Yeung, in editing this section.

Part IV, edited with the assistance of Tammie Quest, examines important issues related to the end of life care, including the role of palliative surgery, the management of symptoms in those with advanced cancer, approaches to opioid analgesic use (and misuse), as well as the

significance of emergency department use at the end of life as an indicator of cancer care quality. The section ends with an analysis of how to build palliative care capacity within our discipline.

The editors and associate editors are extremely proud of this first edition of *Oncologic Emergency Medicine: Principles and Practice*, and we wish to thank all of the contributors who have given of their time, insight, and experience to create a truly unique text which will serve as a valuable resource for practitioners, researchers, policy makers, trainees, payors, and administrators, as we care for those with urgent cancer needs.

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