

Preface

Pancreas and bile duct disorders can be benign, premalignant, and malignant. Patients present with a variety of symptoms that not only create anxiety and fear in the patient but also can be confusing to the treating primary care provider or the internist. The spectrum of clinical presentation can range from nonspecific symptoms to a severely sick patient admitted to the ICU. Several patients are also referred with incidental findings on imaging studies or blood tests done for other reasons. The gastroenterology provider is often faced with patient questions like “What is going on?” “Why did this happen to me?” “Is this serious?” “Do I have cancer?” “Will I develop cancer?” “Can this be treated without surgery?” “Will this happen again?” “How long will I live?” and so on. These questions, while seemingly straightforward, require current, and frequently contradictory knowledge of the recommended guidelines (if any) to formulate a reasonable answer that the patient can understand. This book is a point-of-care reference for a busy clinician who needs the best evidence-based answers to patient questions. The general format of the chapters is focused around patient questions followed by a summary of pertinent literature. For example “What happened and why did this happen?” “What tests am I going to have?” “Are there any complications from the test?” will cover the *Diagnosis and differential diagnosis*; “Why did this happen to me?” will address *Epidemiology*,

genetics, environment, and pathogenesis; “Do I need surgery?” “I don’t want surgery” “Can you treat me only with medicines?” “How experienced is the doctor you are referring me to?” will describe the *Treatment and management*; and last but not the least, “Will it happen again?” “Will I develop cancer?” “How long am I going to live?” “What if I don’t take any treatment?” will describe the *Prognosis*. National and international experts in the field have contributed to this book providing answers to these questions followed by an evidence-based summary of the particular disorder. This book will provide clinicians with state-of-the-art information at their fingertips when caring for patients with diseases of the pancreas and the bile ducts.

Milwaukee, WI, USA
Milwaukee, WI, USA

Kulwinder Dua
Reza Shaker

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Dua, K.; Shaker, R. (Eds.)

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