BOOK REVIEW

Principles and Practice of Radiation Oncology, Third Edition

Drs. Perez and Brady have compiled a textbook of daunting proportions. Having had the prior text in our resident library, we became accustomed to using the Perez/Brady book to obtain information on ports and doses and the DeVita oncology text to obtain more general information on disease natural history and relevant papers. With this new edition, the expansion of content to include extensive reviews of relevant papers and easy to read format have made it the core text in our resident library.

Extensive diagrams of ports and isodose curves in addition to diagnostic imaging provide a comprehensive guide that obviates the need to address a number of texts to guide the radiation physician. Acute and late effects are broken down separately for the treatment of each major disease site and a general overview of late effects is given its own chapter.

In terms of appropriateness for nonradiation oncologist physicians, some subspecialists may be better served by texts specifically directed at the application of radiotherapy to their organ system of interest. For more general oncology physicians in medicine and surgery, this text provides an excellent background on the biologic and physical basis of radiotherapy that is readily accessible and a good overview of the radiation oncology perspective on trials using surgery and chemotherapy.

Radiation biologists and physicists should be aware that this textbook is directed at practicing clinical oncologists. The information presented includes natural history, anatomy, and staging as well as the results of relevant studies to guide practicing physicians with a concise overview of disease management.

A caveat to all users of textbooks: these books require years of effort to put together, publish, and market. Meanwhile, new information that changes disease management is being published in journals and presented at conferences. A certain amount of information in the text is already dated, ranging from staging guides that do not take into account 1997 AJCC modifications to recently published manuscripts. This situation is of course unavoidable.

Overall, we have been very pleased with the third Perez and Brady edition. It has become the core general radiotherapy textbook in our library.

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Books Received


