Endocrine Oncology
S. P. Ethier (ed). Humana Press, Totowa, New Jersey, 2000, 400 pp, £120.00, US$145.00

This book contains twenty chapters addressing many topics in the field of endocrine oncology, almost exclusively from the vantage point of molecular pathogenesis, genetics and pharmacology, with little coverage of the clinical aspects. The main focus of the book is the endocrinology of cancers of the breast, prostate, endometrium and ovary, whereas there is very little information on cancers of endocrine tissues. As usual in this type of book, the depth in which the topics are covered is very heterogeneous and varies according to how hot the field is as a research area, rather than its current clinical importance. Along these lines, the reader will find plenty of information on epidermal growth factor-related peptides in endocrine neoplasia and relatively little on important topics, such as selective estrogen-receptor modulators or aromatase inhibition. All the contributions are of excellent scientific quality and the authors are recognized experts in their fields. Most chapters provide good figures and tables and an extensive reference section. The chapter on tamoxifen and other antiestrogens in the prevention and treatment of breast cancer is one of the more clinically oriented, and is very clearly written and practical. In contrast, the single chapter on BRCA genes is the weakest of the book and does not add anything to the general value of the volume.

This book will be useful as a reference book, mainly to those who have a strong research interest in the field of breast and/or prostate cancer and those who need an update on molecular advances in a particular field of endocrine oncology. Most of the information contained in this book is of little use to the clinical oncologist.

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