

Book Reviews

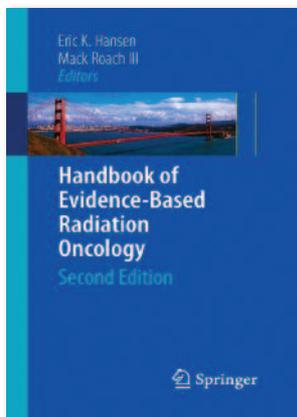
Handbook of evidence based radiation oncology – 2nd edition

Editors: Eric Hansen and Mack Roach, Published by: Springer, ISBN: 978-0-387-92987-3, Price: £44.99.

This book developed out of a need for a reference text for doctors, fellows and students of radiation oncology. The list of contributors is large, and the book is edited by Eric Hansen and Mack Roach. The aim of this book remains as a practical, quick reference guide. The size of the handbook is substantial; 786 pages. Chapters have been revised and include the latest key studies and radiotherapy techniques.

This edition contains some colour photographs. Three new chapters have been added; management of the neck, unknown primary of the head and neck, urethral cancer and clinical radiobiology and physics.

The book is divided into 12 parts, of tumour sites. Within each chapter, the demographics, aetiology, incidence and natural history are listed by bullet points. The required investigations, the staging systems are tabulated. The staging systems used, are those of the 2010 AJCC and FIGO systems. Treatment recommendations are listed by bullet points in a coloured box. Radiation techniques, including simulation and field design are listed, in an easy to read format. The dose prescription, dose limitation, complications and follow-up are provided. Chapter 13. Management of the neck, and unknown primary of the head and neck. This new chapter, describes the levels of the neck, illustrated by scans, provides a table of risk of lymph node involvement



by site and treatment recommendations for management of the neck. UKP of the head and neck is well covered, except more could be written about complications of treatment. Chapter 17. Breast cancer is well written. It describes the epidemiology, genetics, anatomy, screening, diagnostics, studies and pathology. Treatment recommendations; surgery systemic therapy, are discussed in detail with evidence provided in boxes. Advanced invasive breast disease is well covered. A lot of trial evidence, meta-analyses and studies are provided. Radiotherapy planning details are given along with USA dose prescriptions.

The text is well supported by evidence based medicine throughout. The reader is supplied with comprehensive data from international studies. References are listed with further reading at the end of each chapter. The appendices contain information on; performance status scales, commonly prescribed drugs and details on intravascular contrast safety.

In conclusion, I would recommend this handbook, especially to the trainee radiation oncologist, as it contains essential information on the major tumour sites along with the supporting evidence. ■

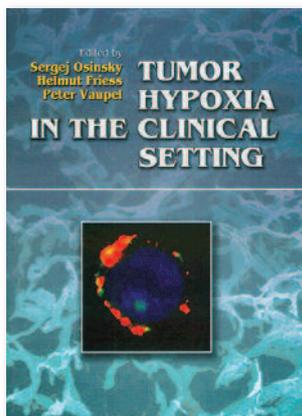
*Reviewed by Dr Karin Baria,
Consultant Oncologist,
Lincoln County Hospital, UK.*

Tumor Hypoxia in the Clinical Setting

Editors: Sergej Osinsky, Helmut Friess and Peter Vaupel, Published by: Akadempriodyka, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. ISBN: 978-966-360-169-4, Price: free of charge. It is explained by the following circumstances: Publication was made possible by a State contract promoting the production of scientific printed materials. The book was published in the framework of the Project "Ukrainian scientific book in a foreign language".

The aim of this book was to write a Ukrainian scientific text in a foreign language. This is the first edition, it is edited by Sergej Osinsky, Helmut Friess and Peter Vaupel, the list of contributors is large. It is dedicated to the 50th Anniversary of the RE Kavestsky Institute of Experimental Pathology, Oncology and Radiobiology of the National Academy of Sciences of the Ukraine. It is a well written, scientific, specialist text. The book is relevant to those studying radiobiology or working in research institutions. It is supported, heavily by references throughout, frequent use of tables, diagrams and graphs. There are also 8 colour plates.

This book considers the data from numerous pathophysiological studies of human tumours, in particular concerning the pathogenesis of tumour hypoxia and the molecular basis of its impact on tumour aggressiveness. Attention has been given to the relevance of tumour hypoxia for the diagnosis and treatment, as well as the prognosis of disease outcome. Tumour response to treatment and approaches to enhance its efficacy are considered, with special emphasis on the role played by intratumoural hypoxia. The link between the molecular mechanisms of



malignant growth and the pathophysiological characteristics of neoplasm, are discussed using the example of human tumours.

The conclusions are that, hypoxia plays a central role in metabolic adaptation and in the development of malignant progression. Hypoxia is present in most human tumours, it confers a poorer prognosis by aiding the development of tumour resistance to irradiation, some cytotoxic drugs and immunotherapeutic agents. It summarises that tumour hypoxia is an important feature of malignant tumours, that maybe exploited to improve the diagnosis and therapy of cancers. It is hoped that tumour hypoxia may help to select patients for personalised therapy, so hopefully improving cancer outcomes.

In summary, this is a well written text and provides the reader with an exhaustive review of the scientific literature. This book is suitable for radiobiologists and for the interested clinician, and assumes prior knowledge of the subject. ■

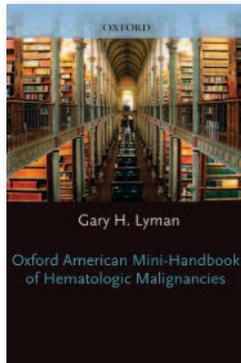
*Reviewed by Dr Karin Baria,
Consultant Clinical Oncologist
Lincoln County Hospital, UK.*

Oxford American Mini-Handbook of Haematologic Malignancies

Editor: Gary H Lyman, Published by: Oxford University Press Inc, ISBN: 978-0-19-539061-2, Price: £11.99.

This is a slim (141 pages, including short Index), pocket-sized book that aims to provide an overview of current haemato-oncology practice. In total, nineteen contributors are acknowledged, the majority of whom are based at the Duke University Medical Centre, Durham, North Carolina. Given the book's modest number of pages, and the pace of clinical developments / new scientific discoveries in haemato-oncology, the information presented is surprisingly detailed and up-to-date.

The first three chapters deal with oncogenesis and tumour biology, Chapter 2 providing a helpful summary table of many oncogenes associated with haematological malignancies. Each of the ten following chapters deal with a distinct haemato-oncological entity, namely: the acute and chronic leukaemias, myelodysplasia, multiple myeloma, Hodgkin's and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. The penultimate chapter provides an overview of haemopoietic stem cell transplantation, whilst the final chapter summaries the expanding



area of targeted therapies with detailed reference to tyrosine kinase inhibitors, proteasome inhibitors, HDAC inhibitors, arsenic trioxide and monoclonal antibodies.

Overall, this book provides the core knowledge of haemato-oncology that would be required at the American equivalent of the UK FY2 level. Unfortunately, for a Britain-based readership, incidence quoted in terms of new cases per year in the USA, and drugs with FDA approval, are less useful. Nevertheless, the majority of the data presented translate well into British practice and would form a good reference text alongside induction training in Haemato-Oncology. ■

*Reviewed by Richard Murrin,
Consultant Haematologist
Sandwell and West Birmingham
Hospitals NHS Trust, UK.*

Oxford Textbook of Palliative Nursing; 3rd Edition

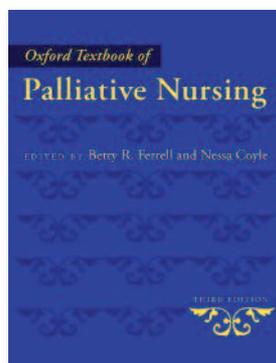
Editors: BR Ferrell, N Coyle, Published by: Oxford University Press, ISBN: 978-0-19-539134-3, Price: £80.00.

This weighty book deals comprehensively with the subject of palliative care and is aimed primarily at nurses working in that area. This is the third edition and as well as general updating, several new chapters have been added. The editors and most of the authors are nurses, mostly in senior clinical or research positions, with a few contributions from medics and allied health professionals.

The book is divided into ten parts, each comprising several chapters. The ten overarching topics are: general principles of palliative care, symptom assessment and management, psychosocial support, spiritual care, special patient populations, end-of-life across [different clinical and social] settings, palliative care in children, special issues for the nurse in end-of-life care, international models of palliative care and a conclusion.

The subject matter is wide-ranging, covering broad ethical and clinical principles many of which are illustrated by short case histories. Specific symptom management is extensively covered over 28 chapters in Part II of the book. Along with the standard topics, such as pain, nausea and vomiting and dyspnoea, are chapters on neurological disturbance, lymphoedema management, skin disorders and sexuality. One chapter also looks at emergency palliative care situations. For each clinical situation, both the medical and nursing management are given but throughout there is also an emphasis on education, communication and psychological support of patients and carers.

Section VIII, addresses topics specific to nurses working in this speciality, with chapters on advanced nursing practice, nurse education and research and the experience of being a nurse in palliative care.



Part IX contains ten chapters on palliative care around the world, the authors being practitioners from other countries, including one on palliative care in conflict situations written by a doctor caring for both Israeli and Palestinian patients in Jerusalem. Otherwise, the book is written by practitioners from the United States of America and therefore refers only to that country's healthcare system, with several references to Medicare and other insurance schemes. Some of the drug nomenclature and drugs used are different, a notable example being the lack of availability of diamorphine for palliative care in the USA. However, the majority of the principles discussed apply to palliative care in any setting.

The text is fully referenced at the end of each chapter and the index is well organised and detailed. There is a single appendix containing the 'Palliative Care Resource List', comprising lists of relevant (albeit largely USA-based) journals, organisations and guidelines. A list of websites references the position statements of Nursing Associations and Societies on a variety of subjects such as the use of complementary therapies in palliative care and assisted suicide.

Overall this book has much to offer not only nurses, but all members of the multidisciplinary team. At around £80, the book represents a fairly large financial outlay for an individual but would be a valuable addition not just for the palliative care team office but also as a reference tool for any health professionals dealing with patients at the end of life. ■

*Reviewed by Kathleen Mais,
Nurse Clinician in Head & Neck Oncology at
The Christie NHS Foundation Trust, Manchester, UK.*