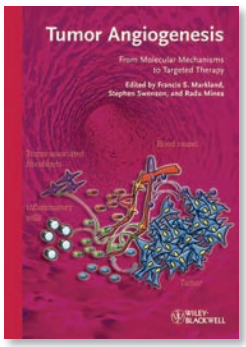
Book Reviews

Tumor Angiogenesis: from molecular mechanisms to targeted therapy

Edited by: FS Markland, S Swenson and R Minea. Published by: Wiley. ISBN: 978-3-527-32091-2. Price: £110.00.



This is a specialist text, covering important research topics in cancer biology. It is an ideal reference for oncologists, cell biologists, pharmaceutical chemists, pathologist, molecular biologists and researchers working in the pharmaceutical industry.

Part I: The introduction looks at tumour angiogenesis; Its history and its importance in thrombosis and malignancy. It shows how angiogenesis represents an essential mechanism connecting thrombosis and malignancy and offering new targets for combined therapies.

Part II: mechanisms of angiogenesis and lymphangiogenesis. In particular, it explores molecular mechanisms of angiogenesis, proangiogenic factors, the role of accessory cells in tumour angiogenesis and tumour lymphangiogenesis.

Part III: considers signal transduction and angiogenesis, in particular integrin involvement in angiogenesis and signal pathways in tumour angiogenesis. Five major signalling systems that are involved in tumour angiogenesis are summarised here.

Part IV: Therapeutic approaches and angiogenesis. This section covers development of an integrin-targeted antiangiogenic agent, Anti-VEGF approaches, and newer antiangogenic approaches already in clinical use. Chapter 10; Anti-VEGF approaches, describes the discovery of VEGF and anti-VEGF cancer therapeutics; monoclonal antibodies. It details the discovery and development of Bevacizaumab, describes the clinical trials and its uses in treatment of metastatic colorectal cancer.

Part V: Imaging and biomarkers in angiogenesis, looks at *in vivo* imaging of tumour angiogenesis and identifying biomarkers to establish drug efficacy. Chapter 13: *In vivo* imaging looks at imaging techniques. This clinically relevant chapter, examines various imaging modalities and describes how developments have shifted from the anatomic method to functional and molecular techniques. Chapter14: Identifying biomarkers to establish drug efficacy. Biomarkers, any test that will help to identify a population of patients is the subject of this chapter.

In summary, this text is well written, in a clear style, though obviously assumes prior knowledge of the subject. There are numerous clear black and white as well as colour plates, and there is a comprehensive list of references at the end of each chapter. ■

Reviewed by Dr Karin Baria,
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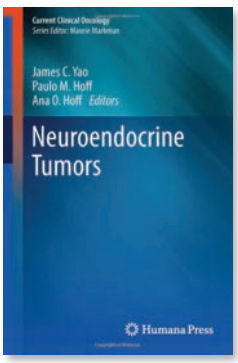
Neuroendocrine Tumours by Yao, Hoff and Hoff

By: JC Yao, PM Hoff and AO Hoff. Published by: Humana Press; 1st Edition. ISBN: 978-1-60327-996-3. Price: £144.00.



This text is a welcome addition to the *Current Clinical Oncology* series from Humana Press. Neuroendocrine tumours (NETs) are a very broad group of tumours, united by their origin from the diffuse neuroepithelial tissues. This can account for lesions that arise in many parts of the body including thyroid, adrenal, lung and gastro-intestinal tract.

One of the challenges in writing a book like this is to try and appeal to as many groups as possible as these tumours are managed by endocrinologists, gastroenterologists, surgical oncologists, clinical and medical oncologists and nuclear medicine physicians and, as such, require a true multidisciplinary approach. In the UK the United Kingdom and Ireland Neuroendocrine Tumour Society (UKINETS) has led the way in developing a multidisciplinary society, which has contributed to improvements in the standard of care for these tumours.

The book is extremely broad in its coverage and does include just about all of the neuroendocrine tumours, with the exception of pituitary and primary CNS lesions. In trying to be all things to all men it has to strike a balance between being sufficiently broad and comprehensive for the general reader, but at the same time providing sufficient depth for the specialist. To some extent it probably does slightly miss the mark. Nevertheless, as a handy lightweight reference it is an extremely useful addition both to the hospital library and the personal library of clinicians who manage these tumours.

It is often felt that Europe has led the way in the management of NETs, and this does seem to be reflected in the chapters within the book. Examples that highlight the trans-Atlantic difference include the chapter on imaging, where about eight lines are dedicated to the use of PET-CT imaging. The use of the 68Gallium-dotatate has made a huge impact in the management of NETs and, although still not widely available, it is expected to replace somatostatin receptor scintigraphy (Octreoscan) in the near future. Another area of difference is in the use of radiopeptide receptor therapy. Some reference is made to the use of meta-iodobenzylguanidine (MIBG) for the treatment of paragangliomas, phaeochromocytomas and carcinoids, but the half page devoted to the use of peptide receptor radiotherapy really does not do justice to what is now becoming a standard treatment in the management of these tumours. This probably reflects the limited availability of these compounds in North America and hence their relative lack of experience and usage.

For the medical management of many of NETs in their advanced state there are huge steps being made with the use of targeted anticancer agents, and the book has probably suffered from being written at a time when there had been significant leaps forward in the management of NETs, with constant reference made to the potential benefit of these agents. Good examples include vandetinib and cabozantinib (XL184) in medullary thyroid cancer, especially in some of the subtypes such as codon 918. It is most unfortunate that the timing has been disadvantageous.

Having said all that, there is much to commend in this book, and for an overview of these tumours it is a very readable reference book and a great asset to the library, which this reviewer anticipates he will dip in and out of regularly as a source of reference. ■

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