

Book Reviews

Cancer in Children: Clinical Management 6th Edition

Editors: Michael C G Stevens, Hubert N Caron & Andrea Biondi. Publisher: Oxford University Press. ISBN: 978-0-19-959941-7. Price £90.00

Cancers in children is a relatively uncommon condition hence it represents a small fraction of the global burden of cancer. However, because of disease burden at an unexpected young age, along with the amount of physical, economical, emotional and social impact it has on the family and society at large, it accounts for a much bigger challenge to clinicians and carers. Over the last two decades, great progress has been made in the molecular and genetic understanding and multi-modality management of childhood malignancy. With the current rapid progress in the molecular and genetic understanding of the disease and new drug development, the astute clinician needs the latest information to provide an accurate diagnosis and effective treatment for the best possible outcome. The authors of the current edition of this book deserve a degree of gratitude for providing comprehensive, evidence based information on the understanding and management of childhood cancer to the practicing physicians. Each chapter has been updated and many have been almost completely rewritten with complex information yet easy to read and understand language.

The book is aimed to provide, in a clear and concise way, evidence based basic and essential state-of-the-art information on aetiology, presentation, investigation and treatment of children



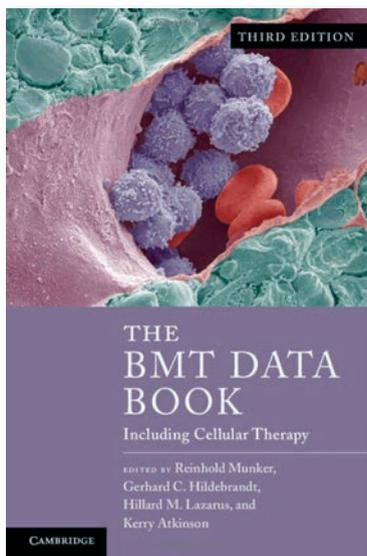
with cancer to not only paediatric oncologists but also the trainees, specialist nurses and other paramedical paediatric staff and they clearly achieve their set goal. This well established multi-authored book is written for the global audience which is clearly evident due to the new addition of many chapters like clinical trials, immunotherapy, imaging, and treatment of cancer in less well-resourced countries. This may be a reason for different units being used for the radiotherapy dosage mentioned in different chapters of the book. It is hardcover bound with good quality of print and paper used. A list of abbreviations used has been provided to the reader with a good comprehensive index and suggested reading list at the end of each chapter. The quality of the diagrams and tables provided is also informative and of a high standard. However, unfortunately, most of the radiological pictures are of poor quality. Similarly, coloured pictures, diagrams, tables, graphs and radiotherapy plan illustrations could have been of added attraction to its popularity. Lack of any mention to dose and/or regimen of therapies are one of the other areas for serious consideration by the authors. ■

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The BMT DATA BOOK: Including Cellular Therapy 3rd Edition

Editors: Reinhold Munker, Gerhard C. Hildebrandt, Hillard M. Lazarus and Kerry Atkinson. Publisher: Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 978-1-107-61755-1. Price: \$99.00.

Bone marrow transplantation is a rapidly developing complex subject. Within a very short period it has essentially moved from bone marrow transplantation to stem cell transplantation. The complexity of the subject has grown exponentially as has the knowledge of the biological behaviour of the human cell and progress in cellular transplantation. This has resulted in a greater use of the technology in malignant as well as non-malignant conditions using related (matched) as well as unrelated, mismatched donors. Similarly, due to increasing experience and growing confidence, stem cell transplant therapy is now being applied to children as well as adults. To maintain high standard of universal care with minimal complications, clinicians need to have the latest and most accurate data source for established indications. The current edition of this book succeeds in fulfilling this requirement. The book provides a practical guide and the latest data source for busy clinicians on which they heavily rely for the management of their patients. Careful attention has been given to the practical issues and approaches in the bone marrow transplant which



has to be practiced for the best outcome. The authors have succeeded in updating many chapters of the book like the rapidly developing field of umbilical cord blood transplantation, haploidentical transplants, cell therapy to treat graft-versus-host disease, viral infections, paediatric neurologic and metabolic disorders. They have excelled in completely updating and timely incorporating the most recent research data available on the subject. The organ-related and miscellaneous complications section has been expanded. Discussions of new drugs significant to the stem cell transplant population and alternative stem cell sources have also been provided. The book is written in simple, easy to understand English with many high quality illustrations, tables and diagrams, extensive references and further reading suggestions. The index provided is easy to use along with a helpful "guide to the internet and literature databases relevant for bone marrow and stem cell transplant" section for further information. ■

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