

Book reviews

TNM Atlas. Illustrated guide to the TNM/pTNM classification of malignant tumours

B Spiessl, OH Beahrs, P Hermanek *et al.* (Editors).

Berlin/Heidelberg/New York:

Springer-Verlag.

(on behalf of UICC International Union Against Cancer) 1989 (3rd edition).

ISBN 3-54017-721-3. 343 pp.

Although the UICC in Copenhagen decided to publish a clinical atlas of malignancies in 1954, it took until 1978 before the booklet 'TNM Classification of Malignant Tumours' (edited by M. Harmer) appeared and it took even longer (1982) before the first edition of the *TNM Atlas* was published. Three years later, the second edition of the Atlas appeared.

Rapid developments quickly render classifications obsolete. After many meetings and discussions, a new consensus was reached in 1987 which forms the basis of the fourth edition of the TNM classification. The classification of gynecological tumors agrees with that of the Fédération Internationale de Gynécologie et d'Obstétrique (FIGO), while the classification of pediatric tumors is identical to that of the Société Internationale d'Oncologie Pédiatrique (SIOP). All the national TNM committees, including the American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC), accept the new, adapted classification.

The *TNM Atlas*, based on this fourth edition, follows the old trusted principles, while the layout of the book also remains the same. The practical format—it's the only atlas which one can just fit into one's pocket—has not changed either; and the original schematic and clear illustrations, from which this Atlas is composed, have been retained.

The extra section of 100 pages mainly covers extensions in the fields of head and neck tumors; liver, gall bladder, and pancreas cancers; urological tumors; bone tumors; and brain malignancies.

Everybody who has to deal with malignancies should have this book and use it—otherwise one does not really know what one is talking about!

W de Jong

Surgical Oncology, a European Handbook

V Veronesi (Editor-in-Chief), B

Arnesjo, L Barns, I Denis and F

Marozzo (Co-Editors).

Berlin/Heidelberg/New York:

Springer-Verlag. 1989.

ISBN 3-54017-770-1. 999 pp.

The new *European Handbook of Surgical Oncology* was conceived six years ago, at the founding of the European Society of Surgical Oncology. The contributions of 140, mainly European, authors have been compiled by the Editors to form a harmonious volume.

The book consists of a 'General' and a 'Special' part. The 'General' part (nearly half the book) contains an original chapter entitled 'General concepts in cancer treatment' which not only discusses the normal treatment modalities but also aspects which directly or indirectly are concerned with therapy. There are articles on 'Transplantation and cancer', 'Wound-healing', 'Psychological aspects of cancer' and 'Pain treatment'. In the article on 'Terminal care', the practical approach (obstipation, nausea, anorexia, etc.) receive sufficient attention. However, the paper on 'Diet and cancer' is not up to the mark; also, an adequate treatment of sexual disturbances is missing. Perhaps in a future edition these deficiencies may be corrected.

The chapter on 'Emergencies in cancer disease' fulfils a need, where the subjects of obstruction, perforation, infection and hemorrhage in various organs and organ systems are treated by experienced clinicians in a systematic manner. The chapter on 'Early and late complications of oncological therapy' is especially worth reading.

In the chapter 'Cancer treatment: planning and evaluation' the trials are presented together with the problems of follow-up, statistical analysis, quality of life, and ethical aspects.

In the second 'Special' part of the book, the malignancies of organs and

organ systems are treated, starting with head-and-neck tumors and ending—32 chapters later—with 'Metastasis of an unknown primary source'. The contributing authors clearly have been asked to keep their presentation short. Only the Editor was not able to contain himself: he added 250 literature references to his chapter on breast cancer!

The strength of the book lies in its consistently multidisciplinary approach, the division into General and Special parts, and the clear exposition and excellent editing. This book therefore should be in every medical library and on the desk of every surgeon.

W de Jong

Progress in Surgical Pathology. Volume 9.

CM Fenoglio-Preiser, M Wolff and F Rilke (Editors).

Heidelberg: Springer. 1989.

ISBN 3-54050-105-3. 220 pp.

In the series *Progress in Surgical Pathology*, the authors discuss problems related to clinical pathology in general rather than 'surgical pathology' only. This makes the contents of these volumes rather heterogeneous.

The ninth volume in the series contains two excellent technical chapters on plastic imbedding of tissues and the localization and preservation of antigens in paraffin slides. In particular, the advantages of the immuno Gold-Silver enhancement method is discussed.

Other chapters worth reading are those on various aspects of clinical pathology, such as the neuropathics by heavy metals, new concepts in preneoplastic and neoplastic breast lesions, and tumor markers for epithelial salivary gland tumors.

Also interesting is the introductory chapter which, in a playful way, enumerates the problems that can occur between the receiving of an article by the editor of a journal, and its appearance in a published form.

In conclusion, this book is recommended for pathologists, especially those who quickly want to orient themselves in a certain area. Also clinical (histo)pathologists will find the book useful.

CJLM Meijer