



Book Review

Oncology: a Multidisciplinary Textbook

Editor: Alan Horwich, Chapman and Hall Medical, London, 1994.

THIS TEXT, edited by the Professor of the Academic Department of Radiotherapy and Oncology, is largely based on the postgraduate course in clinical oncology run at the Royal Marsden Hospital and Institute of Cancer Research, London. Thus, it contains the wisdom and experience of some of the top oncologists in the south of England. All authors except one are based in London or the south-east. The book attempts to act as an introduction to clinical oncology, in 46 chapters and a little over 700 pages. The first section of 17 chapters cover the principles of oncology; the remainder of the text is a systematic review of oncology. Readers of *Oral Oncology* will find particular interest in the first section and in Chapter 38 (Head and Neck Cancer, by Michael Henk and Peter Rhys Evans).

The section on Principles of Oncology constitutes an excellent review for those new to the field, covering epidemiology, cell and molecular biology, immunology, pathology and diagnostics, as well as management principles, psychology, palliation, nursing and others. I believe this section to be an invaluable introduction for clinical and para-clinical staff.

The chapter on Head and Neck Cancer attempts, in 25 pages, to discuss tumours of the nasal cavity, nasopharynx, oropharynx, hypopharynx, larynx and oral cavity. A good introductory overview of the subject results, though salivary tumours are not included. Undergraduate students and postgraduates at the start of a course could benefit from reading this chapter. Others would need far more detail.

Overall, this text would appear to achieve its stated aim—as an introduction to clinical oncology. I have no doubt that students in head and neck oncology could benefit from reading it, but am less confident that they would invest in it, at £65.

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