

Book Review

Long-term Complications of Therapy for Cancer in Childhood and Adolescence

Daniel M. Green. Baltimore, Johns Hopkins University Press. 1989, 171 pp. £32.50 ISBN 0-8018-3765-0.

PAEDIATRIC ONCOLOGISTS are becoming more and more concerned about the short-term and long-term side-effects of their treatments. In the early 1990s, the probability of curing children with cancer will be about 60–65% when all malignant diseases of infancy and childhood are taken into account. Yet the complications of the various treatment modalities—especially radiotherapy and chemotherapy, and, to a lesser extent, surgery—are substantial.

Daniel Green's book is the result of very hard work. However, the reader may be somewhat disappointed when he or she finishes the book. Although all complications are well reported and analysed in the various chapters, grouped by anatomical or physiological systems, some criticisms may arise. The references are throughout almost exclusively North American. This is because the author is a well-known clinician and researcher in Buffalo, USA, but the European reader knows that, in Europe, it is not classical to divide children between white, black and hispanic. Another example concerns the incidence of cancer which is only given for North American children.

Another weakness of this book is the illustrations. The graphics (and tables) are well designed and their contents interesting and easy to understand. However, there are too few pictures of children to illustrate the complications and the imaging techniques only refer to X-rays. There are only four pictures (two of children) and no computed tomographic scans or magnetic resonance images.

The best parts of this book are the section devoted to the pulmonary system, with good discussion of the total bleomycin dosage received and the frequency of pulmonary toxicity, and the chapter on gonadal function and reproduction. The appendix is useful to paediatricians and/or internists who want to test the possible long-term side-effects of cancer therapy given during infancy and childhood.

The book is presented as a monograph, looking like an MD thesis, rather than as a comprehensive book. The book is not very different from others treating the same subjects (for instance, the July 1989 issue of *Clinics in Oncology*). This book is most appropriate for paediatric oncologists and haematologists in training, and also for specialists in internal medicine, who will see patients who have been cured from cancer which had arisen earlier in life.

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News

European Association for Cancer Education

The 4th Annual Scientific Meeting of the European Association for Cancer Education will take place on 24–27 April 1991 in Istanbul, Turkey. Further details may be obtained from Dr W Bender, BOOG, Bloemsingel 1, 9713 BZ Groningen, Netherlands. Fax (31) 50 63 28 83.

AACR Special Conference

The American Association for Cancer Research is organising a special conference on membrane transport in multidrug resistance, development and disease. The meeting, which is co-sponsored by the National Cancer Institute of Canada, will be held on 10–14 March 1991 in Banff, Alberta, Canada. Further details may be obtained from the AACR, Public Ledger Building, Suite 816, Sixth and Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106, U.S.A. Tel (1) 215 440 9300, fax (1) 215 440 9313.

Congress of Radiation Research

The Ninth International Congress of Radiation Research will be held on 7–12 July 1991 at the Sheraton Centre in Toronto, Canada. For further information please contact the Congress Secretariat, 1891 Preston White Drive, Reston, VA 22091 U.S.A. Tel (1) 703 648 3780, fax (1) 703 648 9176.

UICC Congress 1994

The Council of the International Union Against Cancer (UICC) has elected India to host the next International Cancer Congress. The Congress will be held in New Delhi in the first week of November 1994. The Congress Secretariat will be located at the Tata Memorial Centre in Bombay. Dr D.J. Jussawalla and Dr P.B. Desai have been nominated President and Organising Secretary, respectively.

TATA Memorial Centre Golden Jubilee

The Tata Memorial Centre (Tata Memorial Hospital and Cancer Research Institute) in Bombay celebrates its golden jubilee in 1991. Established in 1941, it is the largest comprehensive cancer centre in south and south-east Asia and treats nearly 13 000 new cancer patients every year. A month-long scientific programme is scheduled for February 1991 with numerous symposia, seminars, panel discussions and guest lectures, in collaboration with the International Union against Cancer, the American Cancer Society and the European School of Oncology. Further details may be obtained from the Tata Memorial Centre, Dr Ernest Borges Marg, Parel, Bombay 400 012, India. Tel (91) 22 412 9750, fax (91) 22 412 9937.