

epidemic. Clearly it is possible that the aetiological agents for these two cancers happened to be especially common in those areas, but what is particularly perplexing is that HIV is now believed to have originated from that very same part of Africa. The endemic form of Kaposi's sarcoma which was present in these areas before the AIDS epidemic has been shown to be not associated with HIV infection. As yet no adequate explanation exists for this unusual aggregation of such rare disorders.

With the spread of HIV and the pace of modern research we can expect many questions to be answered soon. For example, we should soon know whether the risk of other cancers known or suspected to be caused by infectious agents—Hodgkin's disease, hepatocellular cancer and cervical cancer—are also

increased in association with HIV infection. Research workers may also have identified the specific agents that cause Kaposi's sarcoma and certain forms of non-Hodgkin lymphoma. This should aid our understanding of the causes of cancer not only in the HIV infected but also in the HIV uninfected. As disastrous as the spread of HIV is, the insights that the AIDS epidemic provides into the causes of cancer may ultimately lead to new and successful approaches to cancer prevention.

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Book Review

Interventional Radiology

Robert F. Dondelinger, Jean Claude Kurdziel and Sydney Wallace, eds.

Stuttgart, Georg Thieme Verlag, 1990. 808 pp. ISBN 3-13-728901-7. DM 298.

THIS is a comprehensive textbook that tries to cover all applications of interventional radiology, a new and rapidly expanding field. Almost 100 authors from the USA and Europe, most of whom are well-known authorities in their specific area, have collaborated under the guidance of the editors to produce over 800 pages of attractively laid-out text. There are an adequate number of illustrations, most of high quality.

The topics covered include percutaneous biopsy, venous blood sampling by percutaneous catheterisation, percutaneous management of fluid collections, endoscopic and percutaneous management of biliary and urinary diseases, therapeutic angiography, angiographic management of vascular obstruction, interventional procedures in the digestive tract and percutaneous lysis of the vertebral disc and neural structures. Despite the rapid changes in interventional radiological techniques and equipment, the editors have been able to include the latest technological developments in, for example, intravascular stents, vena cava filters and embolisation materials.

Although I had difficulty in finding important omissions in this book, some criticisms can be made. As would be expected in a book written by so many authors, the different sections are not equal in quality. Moreover, despite the efforts by the editors, there is some repetition and overlap, especially in the chapter on angiographic management of vascular obstruction. Indeed, the topics of the first two sections of this chapter are again dealt with more extensively and in depth in some of the following sections. Also, historical reviews and discussions in the pathophysiological mechanism of the angioplasty are not limited to the first introductory sections on percutaneous angioplasty, but are repeated in some of the subsequent sections on a specific anatomic area.

1. Beral V, Jaffe H, Weiss R, eds. Cancer, HIV and AIDS. *Cancer Surv* 1991, 10.
2. Penn I, ed. Cancers induced by therapy. *Cancer Surv* 1982, 1, 565-789.

The chapter on embolisation techniques in the brain, in the head and neck and in the spinal canal offers a good overview of methods, but the interventional neuroradiologist looking for detailed information may find this chapter rather short and incomplete, which is probably due to the necessary restrictions on available space. I question the decision of the editors to include electrochemical cancer treatment, a controversial technique that is not supported by research or experience from workers other than the author of this section himself.

However, this book is a much needed update to existing handbooks in interventional radiology and offers substantial new information. I recommend it to those involved in this field.

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News

European School of Oncology

The European school of Oncology (ESO) published its eighth annual report in March 1991. 2314 individuals from 61 countries attended courses organised by the teaching division. Training courses for general practitioners, screening workers, industrial product managers and secretaries in oncology were held for the first time, as well as a seminar on scientific writing and editing. Within the framework of the "Europe Against Cancer" programme, the Commission of the European Communities asked the school to set up an advisory group on the role of dentists in early detection and diagnosis of oral cavity tumours. Other initiatives included 75 fellowships for doctors and nurses to attend ESO residential courses and textbooks on colon cancer for general practitioners. In 1990 the ESO contributed to the launch of the new-style *European Journal of Cancer*, with EORTC, EACR and FECS, and has adopted it as its official journal. The ESO, in collaboration with the Open University UK has also undertaken a programme of distance learning opportunities in oncology at European level. The first course will deal with cancer prevention. Since 1983, 7306 people have participated in ESO's activities; nearly half were from EC countries and over a quarter from South America.