

Book Reviews

Review of Urological Oncology

Edited by Jonathan Waxman and Gordon Williams. London, Edward Arnold, 1992. ISBN 0 340 54926 2. £49.50.

THE INTENTION of the editors of *Urological Oncology* is to apply modern molecular oncological techniques to the management of malignant tumours of the genito-urinary tract. This they have achieved by a combination of contributions from Britain, the U.S.A., Japan and Switzerland. The book, therefore, can claim to be international and the reader has the benefit of expertise of both urological surgeons and oncologists from the U.S.A. and Britain. Different approaches to a similar clinical condition is exemplified by the management methods of early prostatic carcinoma; conservative management in most cases in Britain and aggressive extirpation as practiced by our transatlantic surgical colleagues.

The editors are to be congratulated on the format of the book which is well set out, concise and easy to read and covers the field admirably with a happy blend between the surgical and oncological content, stressing throughout interdependence between surgery and oncology by a combined approach to the management of urological malignancy. In particular I like the conclusions paragraph at the end of each chapter which is a helpful innovation in this text book. At the end of each chapter there is also an excellent and comprehensive bibliography, which will be a valuable reference section for researchers in this field. A small criticism of an otherwise excellent text book is that chapter 17 on Embolization of the Kidney could well be omitted in view of the known disappointing results of this type of therapy in renal cell carcinoma and the subject is briefly but adequately covered in chapter 19.

I will make two suggestions for future editions as I am certain that this book will be re-printed in 2-3 years time, if only to update future advances in oncology. Firstly, inclusion in the book of a short chapter on malignant tumours of the external female genitalia, perhaps submitted by a gynaecologist. Secondly, a new and additional chapter on surgical oncology of the suprarenal glands. Inclusion of this 'Surgical Cinderella', would make the book complete in every respect.

As it stands this text book is an excellent contribution to urological oncology. The book is highly recommended and should be essential reading for oncologists, urologists, trainee urologists sitting higher degrees in their specialty and trainees in general surgery, as oncological techniques developed for treatment of urological malignancy have common application in

other conditions, such as breast carcinoma. *Urological Oncology* will undoubtedly be widely used as a reference book in medical libraries and in departments of oncology, urology and general surgery.

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Malignant Mesothelioma

By Douglas W. Henderson, *et al.* New York, Hemisphere Publishing Corporation, 1992. 412 pp. ISBN 0-89116-977-6. £71.00.

ASBESTOS-RELATED disease tends to be endemic in certain parts of this country and in some countries around the world. The endemic areas are where there are either the producers or the consumers of asbestos and the disease caused is similar in both forms of contact. This comprehensive book on diffuse malignant mesothelioma comes from the asbestos producing areas in Australia and has four editors and a variety of contributors, both medical and non-medical.

The foreword by Christopher Wagner is a fascinating account by one of the pioneers of the early days in the 1950s when malignant mesothelioma was recognised as an entity and its connection with asbestos exposure was unravelled by clever deduction and tedious data collection and analysis. The book has been dedicated, quite appropriately, to the victims of this dreadful affliction who continue to suffer greatly while waiting for a breakthrough in the management of this disease. They pay a high price for man's ignorance of the long-term effects of the materials we use in our daily life.