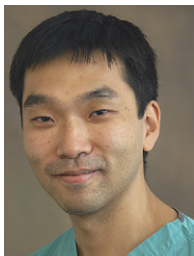


## Preface



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Primary tumors of the spine represent less than 10% of all tumors, both benign and malignant, originating in the spinal column. Nevertheless, these rare lesions often represent some of the most challenging and difficult-to-treat problems in spinal surgery.

With the advent of complex instrumented spinal reconstruction techniques, increasingly aggressive oncologic resections can be undertaken without fear of overt instability of the spine. Additionally, developments in diagnosis, preoperative interventions, and adjunctive treatments have bolstered our ability to manage lesions previously considered inoperable, while more common lesions are being treated with greater success. Today, optimal treatment consists of cooperation between multiple specialties, including radiation oncology, diagnostic and interventional radiology, oncology, plastic surgery, vascular surgery, head/neck surgery, orthopedic surgery, and neurosurgery.

To date, a compendium of literature on primary vertebral tumors has been difficult to find. In this issue, we have attempted to assemble a comprehensive collection of articles on the range of primary vertebral tumors encountered not only in specialized centers but also in general practice.

By no means complete, we hope that this volume appeals to students and seasoned practitioners interested in spinal oncology.

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