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FEATURE: BOOK REVIEW

Clinical Fundamentals for Radiation Oncologists

Clinical Fundamentals for Radiation Oncologists, Hasan Murshed, M.D., editor, Medical Physics Publishing, Madison, WI 2011, 680 pages, ISBN 978-1-930524-4-9, \$90, softcover

Clinical Fundamentals for Radiation Oncologists, an updated and expanded version of *Clinical Fundamentals for Radiation Oncology Residents* (2006) based on Dr. Murshed's preparation for the board examination, is a concise book serving as an excellent source of information for a resident or a practicing radiation oncologist.

This new book summarizes the main body of basic science and clinical knowledge in radiation oncology. It has 18 chapters and is organized into three parts. Part I, consisting of five chapters written by contributing authors, reviews the basic sciences of radiation oncology, including radiation physics, dosimetry and treatment planning, radiation biology, molecular biology, radiation protection, and statistical considerations. Part II is divided into 11 clinical chapters describing disease entities in note format, starting with a brief introduction followed by workup, TNM staging, treatments, outcomes, complications, follow-up, and annotated bibliographies. Part III addresses palliative care and treatment complications.

The basic science section is to the point without omitting important concepts. In the clinical sections, the author provides sufficient, practical, and up-to-date information relevant to patient care. As modern treatment techniques are

transitioning to intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) planning, the author has included conventional three-dimensional treatment techniques along with some up-to-date examples and guidelines for IMRT planning. However, practitioners may want to use specialized texts for more comprehensive treatments of the subject. The annotated bibliographies at the end of the clinical chapters summarize landmark studies related to each chapter and are helpful in providing key information supporting evidence-based practice.

Overall, the book is highly readable, well organized, and succinct. The authors have successfully created a basic framework covering most of the important areas of radiation oncology. A separate chapter on uncommon tumors and the use of radiation for benign conditions, and a more extensive description of brachytherapy techniques, would have improved the book. Although one can easily find more comprehensive or more authoritative books on radiation oncology, this book fills a niche where most of the relevant basic science and clinical information can easily be found in a compact form. It is best suited for radiation oncology residents in training or during the review for board examinations. For the practitioner who has been in practice for some time, this book is also helpful as a supplement to other texts or as a quick reference to information pertinent to clinical practice.

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