

PREFACE

Over the past 25 years, we have been privileged to write five editions of a comprehensive text describing the biology and clinical management of melanoma. *Cutaneous Melanoma* has now become the authoritative and comprehensive treatise on this subject that is used worldwide. It has a special emphasis on data presentation and collectively incorporates the clinical outcomes of more than 50,000 patients treated at major melanoma centers throughout the world. This book spans the entire spectrum of the disease, from precursors of melanoma to advanced stages of metastatic disease, from melanoma genes to population-based epidemiology, and from prevention of melanoma to all forms of multidisciplinary treatments. It incorporates the basic principles of diagnosis and pathologic examination with treatment approaches for the disease's many clinical presentations. Each facet of clinical management is supported by statistical data about natural history, prognosis, and treatment results.

This fifth edition has been completely rewritten by acknowledged experts in a wide variety of disciplines. *Cutaneous Melanoma* has grown considerably larger since the last edition, reflecting the vast amount of new information available on the topic and the increased incidence of melanoma throughout the world. The book contains 44 chapters and is organized into seven major sections focusing on epidemiology, prognosis, and staging; screening, clinical assessment, and pathology; management of localized melanoma; management of regional metastases; diagnosis and local treatment of distant metastases; systemic treatment of metastatic disease; and biology of melanoma. The chapters are either completely new or extensively revised and updated. These chapters provide the latest data on melanoma staging and prognosis, as well as on randomized prospective clinical trials involving surgical treatment and systemic treatments of melanoma. There are new chapters on clinical genetics; sentinel lymph node and regional micrometastases;

adjuvant systemic therapy; immune modulators; melanoma-specific targeted therapies; management of central nervous systemic metastases; and biomarkers. Chapters are also devoted to special types of melanomas, such as childhood melanomas, mucosal melanomas, and subungual melanomas. Finally, every clinical variation of recurrent and metastatic melanoma is addressed, with treatment options included for each clinical entity. These topics include detailed descriptions about local recurrences and their management; regional recurrences; in-transit metastases; and specific sites of distant metastases (e.g., lung, gastrointestinal tract). There is also an emphasis on prevention, screening, and early detection of melanoma.

Cutaneous Melanoma is oriented to all health care providers and researchers involved in the care of patients with melanoma, including surgeons, dermatologists, oncologists, radiation therapists, and other physicians and nurses who diagnose and treat patients with melanoma. There are valuable sections for geneticists, cell biologists, and immunologists as well as epidemiologists and public health workers to provide them with current reviews by the experts in those fields. We have attempted to present a balanced perspective of the risks and benefits involved in each treatment modality and how these can be optimized in various clinical settings. This book also provides a reliable reference for general physicians, internists, and other health care workers to help them recognize cutaneous melanomas at the earliest possible stage, learn how to biopsy them properly for both diagnosis and microstaging, and clinically manage these patients during and after treatment.

Cutaneous Melanoma represents the accumulated wisdom of our colleagues throughout the world who have contributed significantly to the amazing progress that is being made in the study and treatment of melanoma. This progress is built on the solid foundation that was laid by the pioneers in the field, whose interest in this topic led to many of the dis-

coveries that have been made to date. It is our hope that this book will help to further the understanding of melanoma, its biologic and clinical characteristics, and lead to further advances in treatment.

We have been sustained throughout our professional careers by the courage and warmth of the

large number of patients for whom it has been our privilege to care. Personal rewards from these relationships and a desire to help improve the care of other patients are the main reasons we continue to update this book.

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