
Preface

Although squamous cell head and neck cancer is a relatively uncommon malignancy in North America, it has been the focus of intensive clinical investigation, from all oncological disciplines, over the past 20 years. Surgical interest is high because of the unique and complex anatomic relationships in the head and neck region and their profound functional and cosmetic implications. Radiation and medical oncology interest has been driven by the remarkable sensitivity of this neoplasm to both of these interventions. As a result there has been considerable recent progress in our understanding of this disease and in the success of our treatments. Indeed, head and neck cancer serves as a good oncologic model for the benefits of multidisciplinary investigation and management.

Squamous Cell Head and Neck Cancer: Recent Clinical Progress and Prospects for the Future reviews recent progress made in the surgical, radiotherapeutic, and chemotherapeutic management of squamous cell head and neck cancer, with particular emphasis on the coordination of these treatment modalities. Several surgical issues are addressed including laser-based surgery, larynx preservation approaches, salvage surgery, and neck management after non-operative treatment. Definitive radiation for larynx cancer, brachytherapy, altered fractionation radiation, intensity-modulated radiation therapy, and the importance of tumor hypoxia are among current radiation therapy concerns and will be discussed. Chapters have also been included reviewing the role of chemotherapy in sequential, concurrent, and adjuvant multimodality treatment schedules.

A number of treatment approaches with significant promise for the future will also be presented. Interventions including gene therapy, targeted therapies, chemoprevention, and toxicity modification are discussed. The epidemiology of this disease, particularly in the non-smoker nondrinker is addressed as well as the quality of life and symptom management issues so important to this patient population.

Although this book's scope has been restricted to the relatively homogenous squamous cell head and neck cancers, Chapter 15 is devoted to the management of nasopharyngeal cancer in view of the worldwide epidemiologic importance of this disease and the recent success achieved with multimodality treatment approaches.

The organization of *Squamous Cell Head and Neck Cancer: Recent Clinical Progress and Prospects for the Future* reflects the advances that have been made on multiple fronts in the treatment of these conditions. It is meant to serve as both a review of recent success and a blueprint for future investigation of this disease.

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