Hepatocellular carcinoma, the differences that join us

Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is a very complex disease or multiple dimensions. Its particularities include the need for multiple disciplines in the care and management of patients diagnosed with HCC, as well as the global differences that relate to etiology and ethnicity. The effort placed in this volume addresses those two dimensions at length and more importantly bring in ways and approaches that help learn from those differences and solve more pieces to the puzzle of comprehensive understanding of HCC. We aimed at ensuring that different practices and approaches to therapy form all over the world are well illustrated in the second section on “Current Status of Hepatocellular Carcinoma in Different Countries and Regions”. We then drew from those observations collective lessons that ranged from different practices and approaches to local therapies, to differing median survival based on etiology and ethnicity. A robust section on the molecular biology and pathology of HCC helped add some explanations to those differences and bridge the gaps of our knowledge of HCC.

This global perspective is also in part an effort to enhance international collaboration with the hope this may also help in streamlining the management of the disease where applicable and hopefully help in more effective accrual to clinical trials and discovery of novel therapies that would help fill the unfortunately still broad unmet needs of patients with HCC for improved outcome and increased curability rate. This comprehensive effort is a special tribute to the solidarity among all investigators of the HCC community from China and worldwide.

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