Pulmonary nodules are a common diagnostic problem in the daily clinical routine of radiologists, pulmonologists, and oncologists, as well as thoracic surgeons and radiation oncologists. The challenge in the management of pulmonary nodules lies in the necessity to identify the few lung cancers within the vast majority of benign nodules. This diagnostic dilemma is even more pronounced in patients who are undergoing lung cancer screening, which is performed in otherwise healthy heavy smokers with a high risk for lung cancer.

Nodule characteristics, such as size and density, as well as volume doubling time and metabolic activity, are used in combination with clinical and demographic data (age, gender, ethnicity) to predict the probability for malignancy in individual nodules. Nodules with a high risk for malignancy are then either biopsied or resected directly without prior histologic confirmation.

If proven to be lung cancer, the optimal management of these small cancers is still the subject of debate. While some doctors advocate for a lobectomy, others favor sub-lobar resections or stereotactic radiation therapy.

This book provides an in-depth, up-to-date overview of all the different aspects of the management of pulmonary nodules. World-renowned experts in this field have written the chapters in this book. The book focuses on different aspects of lung cancer screening, the management and diagnosis of solid and sub-solid pulmonary nodules, and last, but not least, also on the different treatment strategies of pulmonary nodules.

This comprehensive book provides the different specialists involved in the management of pulmonary nodules with the latest scientific background, and thus, will serve as an indispensable tool for use in clinical practice.

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