

Book and Media Reviews

Hepatocellular Carcinoma: Targeted Therapy and Multidisciplinary Care

Kelly M. McMasters and Jean-Nicolas Vauthey, editors

Willscott Naugler

Oregon Health & Science University

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This textbook takes a brave step in attempting to nail down the many complexities arising in the treatment of Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC) today. This feared cancer has a yearly mortality rate that matches its incidence rate—most patients diagnosed with HCC will die within a year, despite the many therapies currently available, as well as an increasing awareness of risk factors for development of the tumor. The number of chapters in the comprehensive **Hepatocellular Carcinoma: Targeted Therapy and Multidisciplinary Care** (twenty-four) attests to the complexity of care brought to bear in patients with this disease.

While being comprehensive, the editors have taken care not to overwhelm the reader with unnecessary data, though complete references allow the reader flexibility to examine subjects more closely if desired. Though several introductory chapters succinctly review the epidemiology, biology and staging, the majority of the text (ten of twenty-four chapters) is devoted to reviews of differing therapies for HCC. Each of these chapters provides a rather in-depth view of the particular mode of therapy, and to some extent the data showing efficacy and tolerability of the treatment. There are two refreshing instances in this book where differing perspectives of HCC therapy are presented (European and American approaches to laparoscopic liver resection, and Japanese versus Western approaches to the HCC treatment algorithm).

The book purports to be of interest to healthcare

professionals and trainees who are interested in the diagnosis and treatment of HCC, and it lives up to this claim. Because the management of HCC today must involve many providers of diverse expertise, this text will be helpful in educating those providers not routinely caring for patients with HCC. In this regard **Hepatocellular Carcinoma: Targeted Therapy and Multidisciplinary Care** provides a valuable handbook for the practitioner to consult when counseling patients.

This work does not address larger questions of how all of these HCC therapies fit together. Clearly many groups that treat this cancer do not have expertise or interest in all of the listed therapies, so the question of how the described HCC therapies fit into the multi-disciplinary picture is left largely unanswered. This omission reflects the current state of HCC therapy today: many available therapies, sometimes spotty data on the efficacy of particular therapies, and difficulty coordinating all of the different therapies and other care required for the HCC patient. This puzzle is a difficult one even for those expert in the field, and perhaps cannot be answered definitively at this time. Readers will, however, find **Hepatocellular Carcinoma: Targeted Therapy and Multidisciplinary Care** a useful reference for currently available algorithms and treatments that will prove useful in understanding and providing the best care for patients with HCC in the context of local resources.

No potential conflict of interest.

Correspondence to: Willscott Naugler, MD. Division of Gastroenterology, Oregon Health and Science University, Portland, OR; and Portland VA Medical Center, Portland, OR 97239, USA. Email: nauglers@ohsu.edu

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