

Lung cancer is the most common cause of death by malignancy in the world, and it is responsible for as many deaths as colon, breast, pancreas and prostate cancers combined in the US. With the introduction of screening for lung cancer, the development of more precise radiographic techniques, and an aging population worldwide, increasing numbers of patients will be identified with small, early stage lung cancer, many of whom are elderly. In this setting, some patients will be treated with stereotactic body radiotherapy (SBRT) and some will be treated surgically. Which is better? How will we decide which therapy to use?

This volume, *Surgery versus Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy for Early-Stage Lung Cancer*, presents to most up to date data available regarding the relative nature, purpose, risks and benefits of the 2 techniques. The current evidence, relevant controversies, and future directions are critically discussed by an international panel of experts, from Asia, Europe, and North America. The editors have compiled more than 25 outstanding contributions that present a fair and balanced treatment of this critically important subject.

In years to come, it is hoped that prospective, randomized trials will clearly establish which of the 2 therapies would be best in any given patient. Until then, a complete knowledge of the current data, a deep understanding of the relevant studies, and clear perception of future trends is essential to optimize the management of an increasing population of patients with early stage lung cancer.

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