

It is a considerable pleasure and honor to write the preface for this book on kidney cancer. Indeed, we believe the effort to compile the personal opinions concerning the diagnosis and treatment of kidney cancer from experts from all over the world is a worthwhile and valuable endeavor.

Kidney cancer accounted for 2.2% of all cancers diagnosed globally in 2018, and over the past few decades, the incidence of kidney cancer has gradually increased. This may be in part due to the longer lifespans of modern populations and the better scanning facilities, and so more smaller and asymptomatic renal tumors are being found. Moreover, the increased use of imaging modalities, in particular computed tomography, has led to an increase in renal tumor incidence from the incidental discovery of renal tumors during routine scans for unrelated conditions.

Renal cell carcinoma (RCC) is the most common subtype of kidney cancer, accounting for about 90% of all kidney cancer cases. The most common pathological type of RCC is clear cell RCC. About 50% of renal tumors are detected by ultrasound for non-specific symptoms, such as hypertension, malaise, general abdominal pain, anorexia, anemia, weight loss, elevated C-reactive protein, and so on. To date, no specific cause for kidney cancer has been identified. However, certain lifestyle risk factors predispose people to the disease, including an unhealthy diet, smoking, genetic factors (Von Hippel-Lindau mutation) and gender. Patients on long-term kidney dialysis and people with hypertension are also at higher risk. This book can be valuable to readers who are trying to achieve a deep understanding of the occurrence and development of kidney cancer.

Surgery is the only known curative treatment for localized or locally advanced RCC. In addition, surgery can be a palliative treatment for patients with a solitary site of metastatic disease or those with symptoms related to the size of the tumor where quality of life may be improved by debulking. Conventional surgical methods include radical nephrectomy, partial nephrectomy and surgical ablation. In recent years, a variety of treatment schemes have emerged in clinical application, including immunotherapy, targeted therapies (tyrosine kinase inhibitors, monoclonal antibodies, and mTOR Inhibitors).

However, even with these new advances in drug development, there remain many challenges for the doctors treating patients with RCC, especially for those with metastatic diseases. Which is the best first-line therapy? Can treatment be individualized, as is the case for breast cancer? What is the critical role of nephrectomy, especially in patients with metastatic diseases? Which is the best second- and third-line treatment? What is the breakthrough point in the treatment of metastatic/advanced kidney cancer in the future? In this book, we have collected insights and discussions of urology experts from all over the world on these issues to provide a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of kidney cancer.

Given the insights and potential benefits of this book, we recommend it as reading for all urologists and other professionals serving in this field.



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