

Prostate cancer is a major disease that affects men's health worldwide and represents the second leading cause of cancer deaths. It has been estimated that, in 2021, 248,530 new cases of prostate cancer will be diagnosed in the United States, accounting for 13.1% of all cancer cases and leading to 5.6% of all cancer-related deaths.

In the last decade, the management of prostate cancer patients has been completely changed by the advances obtained in our comprehension of the mechanisms of tumor initiation, metastatic spreading and castration resistance, together with the improvements in terms of early diagnosis and risk stratification. The introduction of novel surgical and radiotherapeutic approaches parallels with the development of new hormone, chemotherapeutic and radiometabolic agents, which have led to a dramatic improvement of patients' survival and quality of life. These results also reflect the ever closer cooperation between urologists, oncologists, uro-pathologists, radiologists and nuclear medicine physicians.

Approximately 15% of patients with prostate cancer are diagnosed with high-risk disease. Localized prostate cancer is characterized by high long-term survival, while metastatic prostate cancer is still considered as incurable in almost all patients, even after intensive multimodal approaches. The mortality of metastatic disease is mainly due to the lack of therapeutic strategies able to generate durable responses in the context of an extremely heterogeneous tumor at the genetic, biological and clinical levels.

Currently, several hot points are still the subject of much debate. This list includes, for example, (I) the role and timing of PSA testing, (II) the association between cancer risk and diet or life style, (III) the identification of the ideal candidate for active surveillance, (IV) the selection of patients on the basis of clinical or molecular prognostic and predictive biomarkers, (V) the design of personalized multimodal approaches, and (VI) the choice of the most appropriate therapy for the treatment of metastatic hormone sensitive or castration resistant prostate cancer.

It is my honor and pleasure to provide the preface to this textbook, which involves some of the best world experts on this topic. This book provides to the readers a complete scenario of the current and future surgical, radiotherapeutic and medical treatments, as well as illustrates the most recent results obtained by basic research and translational medicine in this field. Moreover, the authors provide their perspectives on precision medicine for prostate cancer.

Enjoy this interesting reading!



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