Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphomas

PM Mauch et al (eds)

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This handsome volume would be a valuable addition to the bookshelf of anyone involved in the management of patients with non-Hodgkin’s lymphomas. The scope of the book is very wide and at 866 pages long, it is able to provide a quite comprehensive treatment of most of the critically important areas in lymphoma biology, aetiology, diagnosis, assessment and treatment. The editors, Peter Mauch, James Armitage, Bertrand Coiffier, Riccardo Dalla Favera and Nancy Lee Harris, are world famous experts in lymphoma and the list of more than 100 contributing authors includes many of the leading names in the field from all parts of the world. The book is beautifully produced and has 80 clear colour plates, including clinical photographs, imaging studies and photomicrographs.

The opening chapters provide a historical perspective on the evolution of our understanding of lymphomas and of the early development and subsequent refinements of chemotherapy and radiotherapy. The second section of the book contains chapters on diagnosis, staging and initial evaluation. The chapter by Nancy Lee Harris on REAL and WHO lymphoma classifications is particularly valuable. The description of procedures for primary diagnosis and appropriate handling of specimens is practical and detailed and the imaging section contains useful information on structural and functional imaging, including the role of PET scanning. In the brief third section of the book there are chapters on the principles of modern chemotherapy, radiotherapy and biological therapy. The core of the book is the extensive fourth section that covers in detail the pathology, evaluation and treatment of individual clinical entities. These disease entities are described in 19 chapters, each devoted to a single disease or related group of diseases such as diffuse large B cell lymphoma or the follicular lymphomas. This is the section of the book most useful to clinicians and it provides information in a readily accessible form that is highly clinically relevant.

In the fifth short section of the book, there is a useful discussion of late effects of treatment and quality of life in lymphoma patients. The sixth section comprises eight chapters on a range of special topics, including management of lymphoma in children, management of the elderly patient with lymphoma and treatment during pregnancy. The final section contains seven detailed chapters on lymphoma biology, including developmental and functional biology of B and T lymphocytes, the role of infectious agents and molecular genetics.

This is probably the most comprehensive, authoritative and useful book currently available on the topic of non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma and I cannot recommend it too highly.

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