Combined Modality Therapy of Central Nervous System Tumours

Z Petrovich et al (Eds)
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This text of 624 pages (plus index) is part of a series entitled Medical Radiology/Radiation Oncology. Accordingly, there are introductory notes from the series editors as well as the editors of this issue.

The scope attempts a broad and comprehensive series of 34 chapters on subjects that are either discipline or tumour site specific, or both. After the descriptions in the early chapters on epidemiology, pathology and molecular biology, the remainder is concerned with various aspects of therapy. Although individual chapters are very well and consistently structured, the overall content is less optimally organised. The multi author approach leads to inevitable overlap and repetition, but to their credit, very little discord.

The depth is highly variable with radiation therapy receiving particular emphasis and detail, followed by surgical approaches and least of all chemotherapy. Along with the superficial approach to chemotherapy there are very brief chapters on immunotherapy and gene therapy. However, there are no chapters on other new and experimental approaches, such as inhibition of angiogenesis.

Although less than ideal as a reference resource, the book does provide some interesting reading on specific aspects of neuro oncology, with some excellent illustrations.

L White
Sydney Children’s Hospital
Sydney, NSW