

# Preface

Hepatocellular carcinoma represents a leading cause of cancer death and a major health problem in developing countries. It has also become increasingly important with the increase in hepatitis C infection in developed countries.

Knowledge on hepatocellular carcinoma has progressed rapidly, and the paradigms for its treatment have changed in a major way during the past decade. Not too long ago, hepatocellular carcinoma was considered as a surgical disease, with liver resection being the only form of treatment with the potential for a cure; unfortunately, the operative mortality rate was very high. Now, not only has liver surgery become safe, but the best clinical practice encompasses a multidisciplinary approach including the disciplines of surgery, interventional radiology, medical oncology, hepatology, diagnostic radiology, pathology, molecular biology, and even epidemiology.

This is a multiauthor book on hepatocellular carcinoma, written by an international team of world-renowned experts covering topics in their respective areas of expertise. There are altogether 50 authors from 15 countries/regions, namely Australia, Canada, China (including mainland China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan), France, India, Italy, Japan, Singapore, Switzerland, South Africa, Thailand, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

This book aims to provide a fully current, fully referenced text that is as succinct as possible, but as comprehensive as necessary. It covers all topics in hepatocellular carcinoma: from epidemiology to prevention, from molecular biology to gross pathology, from anatomy to surgery, from screening to atypical presentations, from diagnosis to treatment, and from assessment to a multidisciplinary approach. It provides the

most updated knowledge in the rapidly advancing field of hepatocellular carcinoma. Controversial areas are discussed by highly regarded authorities who look at the problem from different perspectives. There is a good list of references at the end of each chapter; and there is an extensive use of diagrams, figures, and tables to make the text easy to read.

The intended readers of this book are clinicians and researchers who are interested in hepatocellular carcinoma, including liver surgeons, hepatologists, interventional and diagnostic radiologists, and basic researchers. General physicians, general surgeons, trainees, epidemiologists, hospital administrators, pathologists, and instrument manufacturers will also find this book useful as a reference.

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