

It is with great enthusiasm that the editors present the first edition of *Rectal Cancer* by AME Publishing Company. This collection of manuscripts has been specifically compiled to provide a comprehensive guide to understanding the complex management of rectal cancer. Thought leaders and researchers world-wide, in the fields of radiology, nuclear medicine, pathology, gastroenterology, surgical oncology, medical oncology, and radiation oncology have come together to contribute their expertise to this text. The aim of this project is to provide a useful, practical, high-quality, evidence-based tool that providers will readily reference when managing patients with rectal carcinoma.

This comprehensive book is divided into 9 sections, building from diagnosis, through treatment overview, to specific treatments, ultimately to prognosis. In section one, *Imaging of rectal cancer*, authors Raman *et al.*, evaluate the evolution of imaging in rectal cancer specifically how advancing imaging modalities have impacted diagnosis, staging, treatment, and response to treatment. In the second section, *Treatment Overview of Rectal Cancer*, authors discuss topics relating to a treatment overview for rectal cancer. Dr. Fung-Kee-Fung details a broad look at rectal cancer while Dr. Minsky provides a glimpse to the future of rectal cancer management detailing advances in staging and comprehensive management.

In section three, *Surgical Treatment of Rectal Cancer*, a collection of 8 manuscripts breakdown the various intricacies of surgical treatment for rectal cancer. Innovative minimally invasive surgical modalities like robotic and laparoscopic resection are reviewed in closer detail in a series of 3 articles detailing their current and future use in rectal cancer surgery. Other topics include analysis of value, surgical margin delineation, and the influence of anastomotic leakage on patients' outcomes. Section four, *Chemotherapy of Rectal Cancer*, features a detailed discussion on chemotherapy. From the optimal timing for chemotherapy in locally advanced rectal cancer to the emerging role of neoadjuvant chemotherapy in resectable disease, the authors outline recommended strategies for systemic therapy delivery.

Section 5, *Radiotherapy for Rectal Cancer*, includes a collection of papers evaluating the evolving field of radiation therapy in rectal cancer treatment. Dr. Myint reviews novel radiation techniques such as high-dose-rate brachytherapy. Dinapoli *et al.* introduce the concept of radiomics for rectal cancer, while Holman *et al.* present the results of intraoperative electron beam radiation as a component of multimodality treatment. Dr. Das completes the Radiation section with a review of the latest in proton beam therapy for rectal cancer.

In section 6, *Radiotherapy and Chemotherapy for Rectal Cancer*, the combination of concurrent chemotherapy and radiation are analyzed in further detail. Araujo *et al.* describe the current state of neoadjuvant therapy and the impact on the surgeon while Noh *et al.*, review genomic predictors for treatment response. Yang *et al.* investigate whether there is a role for definitive chemoradiation in certain complete responders. In the next section, *Immunotherapy*, Dr. Glimelius reviews the current and future role for immunotherapy specifically regarding the impact of immunoscore in rectal cancer patients.

Yaffee *et al.* provide a comprehensive assessment of the current state of systemic therapy in the locally advanced and metastatic settings in section eight, *Comprehensive Treatment of Rectal Cancer*. Van Eeghen *et al.* then review outcomes after radiotherapy with long or short intervals prior to surgery. Additionally, Mitin *et al.* review the management of oligometastatic rectal cancer, with specific attention to the liver. In the final section, *Prognosis of Rectal Cancer*, Petrelli *et al.* review 22 randomized trials and discuss the limitations of potential surrogate end points for 5-year survival.

The editors are very proud of the first edition of *Rectal Cancer* by AME Publishing Company. We wish to extend our sincere gratitude to all of the contributors for lending their experience, vision and expertise to this book. It is our hope that this manuscript will serve as an invaluable resources for providers in their care of rectal cancer patients.



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