

Biliary Tract and Gallbladder Cancer: Diagnosis and Therapy

Charles R. Thomas, Jr, MD and Clifton David Fuller, MD. New York, NY: Demos Medical Publishing, September 8, 2008. 336 pages, 450 high-resolution full color illustrations, hardcover, \$149.00.

This book is a thorough review of the many aspects related to the diagnosis and treatment of cancers of the biliary tract and gallbladder. Given the rarity of these types of tumors, the authors examine them in a concise, well written, and in depth manner. The strength of this book lies in its multidisciplinary approach with an international panel of 50 contributors from the fields of surgery, radiology, radiation oncology, interventional radiology, pathology, oncology, and gastroenterology. Furthermore, its editors span the range of educational levels and their different perspectives make it detailed enough for experienced practitioners, yet clearly written enough for those

looking for an introduction to this specialized field. The editors are Dr Charles R. Thomas, Jr, MD, who is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Radiation Medicine at Oregon Health and Science University and Dr Clifton David Fuller who is a resident in the Departments of Radiation Oncology and Radiology at the University of Texas Health Science Center.

The book contains 4 major sections (General Considerations, Diagnostic Approaches, Therapeutic Approaches, and Future Directions) with 23 chapters. It progresses in a logical fashion by starting out with the epidemiology of gallbladder and biliary tract neoplasms, and then moving onto the pathologic and radiologic characteristics of these tumors. Next, there is an exhaustive discussion of the most up-to-date treatment options available by surgery, radiation oncology, and interventional radiology. Finally, the book concludes with future therapeutic directions and experimental therapy.

The book is straightforward to read and the 450 high-resolution color illustrations provide a nice addition to

the written text. It is a concise review of a complicated topic in only 336 pages. Each chapter is well researched with an extensive review of the literature. The index provides a useful guide for searching topics easily.

In summary, this book is an excellent choice for any physician seeking a comprehensive, multidisciplinary, and cutting-edge review of biliary tract and gallbladder cancer. The emphasis on a team approach to these tumors is demonstrated by the vast array of contributors from all over the world who are experts in many different specialties. Therefore, this book would be a great resource on this topic for fellows and junior faculty in gastroenterology, radiology, surgery, and oncology. As the title indicates, this book examines all aspects related to the diagnosis and therapy of these malignancies and provides the reader with a unique insight into these tumors.

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