

Walter E. Longo
Vikram Reddy
Riccardo A. Audisio
Editors

Modern Management of Cancer of the Rectum

Second Edition

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ISBN 978-1-4471-6608-5 ISBN 978-1-4471-6609-2 (eBook)
DOI 10.1007/978-1-4471-6609-2
Springer London Heidelberg New York Dordrecht

Library of Congress Control Number: 2014957533

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Printed on acid-free paper

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*To Janice, Ashleigh, William
Mary Frances and Matthew
And
Frank, Mary Lou
Frankie, Peter and Christine*

– Walter E. Longo

*To my wonderful children
Maya and Alok
Of whom I am the proudest*

– Vikram B. Reddy

To Monica for her immense patience

– Riccardo A. Audisio

Foreword

Since the last edition of *Modern Management of Cancer of the Rectum*, there has been great progress in all matters to do with rectal cancer. Much has come from formal systematic prospective clinical research based on evermore refined preoperative staging and changes in management strategies, including developments in chemoradiotherapy and surgery. Genetic analysis has demonstrated that large-bowel cancer is at least three diseases. The blank genetic picture of 30 years ago is gradually being filled in by an extraordinary amount of new information. Preoperative staging has achieved a high degree of accuracy, which can predict the histopathological examination of the excised specimen in most cases. This has changed the management strategy regarding the integration of chemoradiotherapy with surgery, whether major or local. Treatment has been opened up dramatically through chemoradiotherapy as primary treatment, by which patients experiencing a complete response are followed without surgery or undergo local excision at the site of the primary tumour. This approach still needs validation, and there are now several prospective studies examining this question.

There is much focus in the book on the identification of risk factors which determine the cancer-specific outcome of patients with rectal cancer. These include preoperative staging of lymph nodes before and after chemoradiotherapy, which is still one of the most important factors influencing multidisciplinary management. The book deals with all forms of treatment, from that aimed with curative intent to the management of palliative disease. All types of treatment of colorectal cancer are considered, including any form of chemoradiotherapy and the newly applied brachytherapy. The numerous operations for rectal cancer are also dealt with in detail, with equivalence given to local and radical procedures. The growing interest in the treatment of pelvic recurrence and metastatic disease receives considerable attention. There are chapters on follow-up, rare colorectal tumours, revisional surgery and quality of life after treatment. Further chapters include discussion of the technique focussing on restorative resection, lateral-node dissection and laparoscopic, compared with robotic, surgery.

Modern Management of Cancer of the Rectum deals with every aspect of rectal cancer. Its overall view is delivered by an internationally recognised panel of experts, all of whom are leaders in their field. The referencing is excellent, supplying a bibliography including classical publications leading on to an invaluable list of modern citations. The book is well laid out, with

excellent tables and illustrations. As a statement of the present position regarding all aspects of rectal cancer, it is an up-to-date account by experts.

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Preface to the Second Edition

The premise of the second edition of *Modern Management of Cancer of the Rectum* is a revision and update of a gradually changing field, in which the surgeon, medical oncologist, and radiation oncologist cannot function without the others. In the 13 years since the last edition, several advances in medical oncology and surgical techniques have changed the management of rectal cancer, and every chapter of this edition reflects these changes, while adding new ones about the burden of disease, relevant anatomy, role of laparoscopy and robotics, anorectal reconstruction, and remedial surgery. We hope that this book will become an important reference material for the newest data regarding rectal cancer and its management. Expert authors from all around the world have dedicated their precious time to create outstanding chapters on all aspects of the management of rectal cancer.

We trust that this book will provide practicing surgeons, surgeons in training, oncologists, radiation oncologists, and all others who diagnose and treat this malignancy with up-to-date information that will ultimately allow for a better management of each of our patients.

In producing this book, we would like to acknowledge our mentors for their inspiration and teaching, our patients who made us want to persevere in our advancements, our students so that they may be better than us, and our families for their support and understanding. We would like to acknowledge our utmost appreciation and gratitude to our authors, to our publishers, and to Joni Fraser at Springer for making this book possible.

New Haven, CT, USA
New Haven, CT, USA
St. Helens, UK

Walter E. Longo
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