

BOOK REVIEWS

Dx/Rx: Lymphoma

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Jones and Bartlett Publishers (2008)

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This text is from a series of five Dx/Rx oncology books. Other titles include: *Upper Gastrointestinal Malignancies: Cancers of the Stomach and Oesophagus*; *Leukaemia*; *Lung Cancer*; *Palliative Cancer Care*; and *Breast Cancer*, with *Colorectal Cancer* coming soon.

This book is compact pocket-size with precise up-to-date information. Divided into eight chapters, each discusses the diagnosis and treatment of the most common lymphoma sub-types. These include diffuse large B-cell lymphoma, follicular lymphoma, marginal zone lymphoma, mantle cell lymphoma, Hodgkin's lymphoma as well as the less common cutaneous T-cell lymphomas; mycosis fungoides and Sezary syndrome. Each chapter is further divided into sub-sections – epidemiology, presentation, pathology, prognosis, variants and treatment (early and advanced stage disease). Additionally, there is also a handy section at the back detailing common chemotherapy regimes used in the management of lymphoma.

The author aims to provide enough information to understand the diagnosis, staging and initial evaluation of a lymphoma patient and how to manage the treatment phase. As the title states, this book looks at the diagnosis and treatment of lymphoma. Consequently, it focuses heavily on the pathology, classification, prognosis and treatment of the disease, and as such is aimed at medical professionals. The complexity involved in the classification of lymphoma is reflected in the latest and most comprehensive classification system by WHO, which notes 30 subtypes of this disease. This classification is determined by cell origin (B, T or NK) and by cell maturity (precursor/mature). Further to this system, there are sub-types based on the clinical behaviour of the disease (indolent, aggressive, and highly aggressive). This book has many tables and graphs that summarise clinical data.

I found the section on chemotherapy regimes very interesting, especially in regard to the use of rituximab both with induction phase treatment, as well as post-transplant maintenance schedules. The notes section following each treatment regime is a very handy reference in regard to why variances occur, prophylaxis medications needed with specific regimes and their dosing schedules. Overall this book provides a good reference to the oncology professional.

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