

Book Review

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Nuclear Oncology

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One of the most exciting areas in nuclear medicine is the area of nuclear oncology, which is also one of the largest areas of growth in the clinical practice of nuclear medicine. The advancement in this area is evidenced by the significant increase in the number of labeled antibodies and peptides that have been approved or are close to approval for clinical use by the FDA. Furthermore, there has been an impressive increase in the clinical indications for positron emission tomography, which has followed the rapidly expanding literature demonstrating the unique clinical information obtained from the PET scan. This book covers these and other areas in a comprehensive and thoughtful manner.

The book comprises 24 chapters dealing with all areas of radiopharmaceutical imaging in oncology. Where appropriate, therapy with radiolabeled pharmaceuticals is also discussed. Many of the chapters are oriented towards discussion of specific types of tumors, such as the chapters on brain tumors, melanoma, thyroid cancer and breast cancer, and these chapters review the diagnostic options using radiopharmaceuticals. Other chapters deal with general categories of malignancies, such as the chapter on gynecologic tumors and gastrointestinal tumors. The information in each chapter is clearly presented, and would be of great benefit when one needs to quickly review the diagnostic options in radiopharmaceutical imaging in a patient with a malignancy.

This book pulls information together that would usually be located in a variety of textbooks. Examples of such chapters are the chapters entitled, 'Evaluation of the Side Effects of Chemotherapy and Radiotherapy', 'Pediatric Tumors', 'Assessment of Multidrug Resistance', 'Subtraction Technique in Tumor Imaging through Interactive Matrices', and 'Tumor Markers in Oncology'. The text also contains a wealth of information on antibody and peptide imaging. In general, the chapters are thorough and well referenced. There is a great deal of important clinical information provided in the chapters, which helps the reader understand the clinical indications and applicability of the examinations.

This book would be an important addition to the library of any physician or scientist working in the field of oncology. The textbook contains information that one would normally need to seek out in multiple reference books and journals, is current in its information, and has information presented in an easily readable format. The field of nuclear oncology is rapidly expanding, and requires one to be knowledgeable in many areas. This is an important textbook that will help one keep informed about this exciting field.

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