

Book review

Nuclear oncology (1999) C. Aktolun and W.N. Tauxe. Springer, Berlin Heidelberg New York. ISBN 3-540-64760-0. Price: DM 298.-.

Nuclear oncology has seen some major progress in diagnostic imaging and therapeutic applications in the last decade. The authors have done an excellent job and brought all the disciplines in this field under one textual roof. The book is divided into two parts. Section 1 deals with radionuclides in the diagnosis and treatment of malignant tumours and comprises 15 chapters written by 33 experts. Section 2, containing nine chapters, deals with special techniques and radiopharmaceuticals. All chapters are written by experts who have researched and published on the subject. Thus, the text provides an insight into the past and present status of the field

and is laced with personal experiences. Illustrations are adequate in number and are of high quality. An occasional image from a rectilinear scanner awakens past memories; then again, some of the PET images show the future. The chapters are well written and referenced and contain very helpful tables. Reading the text, one realises the speed with which scintigraphic applications have changed. The chapter on breast imaging is a good example, and contains a very small section on sentinel node scintigraphy: if the same chapter were to be written today the content weighting would be different. Generally, the book will be of benefit to doctors practising in the field of nuclear medicine, who will find it a useful source of reference in difficult times. Certainly, it is recommended for trainees in this field. Radiologists and oncologists will also find some pearls in this text. Jamshed B. Bomanji, London