CANCER OF THE FEMALE REPRODUCTIVE ORGANS

ALFRED I SHERMAN



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Illustrated by Elisabeth North

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Dedicated to the four generations of women known to me, the generation of my grandmothers, that of my mother, that of my wife, and that of my daughter, and to that generation of my granddaughter yet to be born, to whom I hope, the diseases discussed in this book will be total strangers.

Preface

The knowledgeable data related to cancer of the female reproductive organs is dispersed over voluminous and widely divergent spheres of the medical literature. It was the reactions observed in students, residents, and practitioners in their attempts to assimilate this widely dispersed data that prompted the writing of this book. It was written to comply with their requests for the integration of data on gynecologic cancer into a form suitable for ready consumption and to bring within reach the raison d'être for differences in therapeutic methods as well as the reasons for particular selections of therapy under certain circumstances.

Although the pertinent facts are condensed and simplified to allow both a quicker assimilation of the data and an easier understanding of the reasoning for certain methods of treatment and for specific arrangements of radiation sources, critically important data as well as many of the practical facts are also included.

Rather than to stress the results related directly to modes of therapy, emphasis is placed on interpreting the mechanisms for the observed results in order to signify that there is more involved than the mere method to explain these differences.

Since diagrammatic illustrations allow a more sharply defined focus on specific details, all illustrations in the book are diagrammatic. Hopefully, such fixation in the reader's mind will make subsequent recognition easier, whether seen on x-ray films, on microscopic sections, or on visual inspection. The result of Mrs. Elisabeth North's painstaking efforts to portray these points is most gratifying.

Throughout the book a sincere attempt has been made to present all methods of treatment and the rationalization for their use in as unbiased a manner as is justifiably deserved. However, I do present a definite philosophy and preference toward certain specifically defined modes of therapy, which can be readily identified by perusal of the chapters.

The inclusion of gynecologic tumors in a single book is quite justifiable. From an anatomic viewpoint alone, this delineation is warranted, and, in spite of the variability of the individual cancers, their anatomic proximity and localization to one compartmental area tend to naturally unify them into a single group. Furthermore, the functional and physiologic coherence of the involved organs

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unquestionably binds them together and relegates them to the medical jurisdiction of the gynecologist. Moreover, the fact that they comprise a statistically significant proportion of all cancers occurring in the female supports their inclusion in an individual book. By virtue of the present-day accepted practice of including mammary cancer within the field of general surgery, carcinoma of the breast has not been included.

Finally, a few words of wholehearted thanks and gratitude are in order. No pretense is made to the possibility that the inculcation and amalgamation of the included necessary material is the sole accomplishment of one man. Grateful acknowledgment is made to Dr. Willard M. Allen for his confidence and continuous guidance and for affording the opportunity which made this book possible. Sincere thanks are given to Dr. A. Norman Arneson who, by his teaching, supervision, and kind interest, has had a great influence on me. In addition, I wish to acknowledge my indebtedness and gratitude to Dr. Michel M. Ter-Pogossian, whose comprehensive knowledge of radiation physics has always been commodious and indispensable, for his enthusiastic support, stimulation, and tutelage.

Alfred I. Sherman

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