

CANCER  
OF  
THE  
SKIN

# CANCER OF THE SKIN

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# PREFACE

This past decade has witnessed the transformation of cutaneous oncology from an apparition to an eminent field which brings together such disciplines as dermatology, dermatologic surgery, plastic and reconstructive surgery, general surgery, radiotherapy, oncology, and the basic sciences. The importance and timeliness of the discipline is best exemplified by the actions of the President of the United States, the Congress, the American Academy of Dermatology, the American Cancer Society, and others in developing a National Program of Prevention and Early Detection of Cancers of the Skin to deal with the serious epidemic of cutaneous malignancies, which affect over 600,000 Americans each year. It is essential that an all-embracing, organized, and lasting program of public and professional education be developed to encourage a better understanding of the etiology, pathogenesis, prevention, and treatment of all types of cancers of the skin.

As in any emerging discipline, there is often a lag between the discoveries in the basic science laboratories on the one hand and the clinical application of such knowledge on the other. This text was written and edited in an attempt to bridge the gap between the two. It is targeted at specialists, generalists, basic scientists, and all students of the skin.

The work addresses a core presentation of the discipline best termed "cutaneous oncology." It begins with an in-depth look at the fundamental concepts of cutaneous neoplasia. An overview of the epidemiology of cancers of the skin follows. The most common neoplasms of the skin, basal cell and squamous cell carcinomas, are presented in depth, along with a discussion of possible precursor keratinocytic lesions, viral oncogenesis, bowenoid papulosis, and epidermodysplasia verruciformis. A comprehensive review of the most up-to-date information on melanocytic neoplasms follows. Rarer cancers of the skin are reviewed, including adnexal carcinomas, mammary and extramammary Paget's disease, pseudosarcomatous lesions, sarcomas of the skin, Merkel cell carcinoma and vascular malignancies. Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) and neoplasms of the skin associated with AIDS are presented in depth, followed by a comprehensive review of lymphomas and leukemias of the skin. Genetic syndromes with associated cutaneous malignancies, cancers metastatic to the skin, and cutaneous manifestations of internal malignancies are the next topics of discussion. Clinical and histologic simulators of cancers of the skin are subsequently discussed. The later chapters of the textbook present a comprehensive discussion of treatment of patients having cancers of the skin, including general biopsy techniques, cutaneous wound healing, curettage and electrosurgery, cryosurgery, topical chemotherapy, laser surgery, micrographic surgery, reconstructive plastic surgery, radiotherapy, and immunotherapy. The final chapters include a discussion of the role of the ophthalmologist and the psychologist in the management of patients with cancers of the skin. Finally, a discussion of medicolegal problems in the management of patients with cutaneous malignancies is presented.

Every attempt has been made to present the facts and controversies of the field in as clear a manner as is possible. The editors and authors encourage critical reading of this textbook and welcome your honest thoughts, especially about our handling of the more controversial topics.

The survival of humankind may depend upon how we protect our integument. The problems of the environment will undoubtedly play a major role in the development of a better understanding of the etiologic mechanisms involved in the genesis of cancers of the skin. An expanding populace in a polluted environment makes the role of the cutaneous oncologist an ever-expanding one. This textbook was developed, written, and edited in the hope of strengthening the discipline of cutaneous oncology by presenting it as an integrated field of medical science that will have ever-increasing importance.

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