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Clinical Oncology

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Malignant Lymphomas

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Contents

Preface	xi
I NON-HODGKIN'S LYMPHOMAS	
1 Pathology of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	1
Thomas M. Grogan, MD, Marina A. Jaramillo, MD	
2 Epidemiology of Lymphoma	31
Brenda Birmann, SM, Ellen Chang, Nancy Mueller, SCD	
3 Molecular Biology of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	47
Nikhil I. Khushalani, MB, BS, Myron S. Czuczman, MD	
4 Staging of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	67
Tak Takvorian, MD, Pamela J. DiPiro, MD	
5 Prognostic Factors in Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	84
M. Alma Rodriguez, MD, Fernando Cabanillas, MD	
6 Indolent B-Cell Lymphomas	94
Andrzej Petryk, MD, Bruce A. Peterson, MD	
7 Diffuse Large Cell Lymphomas	112
John E. Godwin, MD, MS, Richard I. Fisher, MD	
8 Lymphoma of Mucosa-Associated Lymphoid Tissue	126
Claire Y. Fung, MD	
9 Mantle Cell Lymphoma	135
Orion Howard, MD	
10 High-Grade Non-Hodgkin's Lymphomas	152
Deborah A. Thomas, MD, Jorge Cortes, MD, Carlos Bueso-Ramos, MD, PhD, Hagop M. Kantarjian, MD, Fredrick B. Hagemeister, MD	
11 Primary Mediastinal (Thymic) Large Cell Lymphoma	198
Alan C. Aisenberg, MD, PhD	

12	High-Dose Therapy for Indolent Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	207
	Philip J. Bierman, MD	
13	Stem Cell Transplantation for Aggressive Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	220
	Tarun Kewalramani, MD, Craig H. Moskowitz, MD	
14	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome-Related Non-Hodgkin's Lymphomas	241
	Kenneth S. Cohen, MD, David T. Scadden, MD	
15	Cutaneous T-Cell Lymphoma	259
	Francine M. Foss, MD, Marie-France Demierre, MD, FRCPC	
16	Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma in the Elderly	276
	Vicki A. Morrison, MD	
17	Salvage Chemotherapy of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphomas	289
	Martin E. Gutierrez, MD, Wyndham H. Wilson, MD, PhD	
18	Monoclonal Antibody Therapy of Lymphoma	301
	John P. Leonard, MD, Magdalena Petryk, MD, Michael L. Grossbard, MD	
19	Vaccine Approaches to Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma Therapy	316
	Sattva S. Neelapu, MD, Larry W. Kwak, MD, PhD	
 II HODGKIN'S DISEASE		
20	The Pathology of Hodgkin's Disease	330
	Patrick A. Treseler, MD, PhD	
21	Staging and Pretreatment Evaluation of Hodgkin's Disease	356
	Jonathan W. Friedberg, MD, Pamela J. DiPiro, MD	
22	Prognostic Factors in Hodgkin's Disease	373
	Dirk Hasenclever, PhD	
23	Early-Stage Hodgkin's Disease	388
	Dennis L. Cooper, MD	
24	Management of Advanced Hodgkin's Disease	401
	George P. Canellos, MD	
25	Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation for Hodgkin's Disease	411
	Henry C. Fung, MBChB, FRCPE, Auayporn P. Nademanee, MD, Stephen J. Forman, MD, FACP	
26	Radiation Therapy for Hodgkin's Disease	428
	Joachim Yahalom, MD	
27	Late Complications after Treatment of Hodgkin's Disease	442
	Harry Quon, MD, FRCPC, Paul Gliedman, MD	

Preface

Over the past decade, I have had the privilege of participating in the care of thousands of patients with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL) and Hodgkin's disease (HD). During that time, the incidence of NHL has been rising. At the same time, the benefits of extensive research in tumor immunology and molecular biology have radically altered our understanding of lymphoma biology and new therapeutic agents have advanced rapidly from the laboratory to the bedside. Monoclonal antibodies and other targeted therapies have become a routine mode of treatment and bone marrow transplants have emerged as a standard of care for relapsed NHL and HD. Major prospective, randomized clinical trials have helped to define the current standards of care in lymphoma management. Simultaneously, enhanced recognition of unique immunologic markers has led to a revised pathologic classification of these diseases.

This volume on lymphoma is designed to summarize current knowledge on the pathology, epidemiology, molecular biology, presentation, and management of patients with both NHL and HD. I hope that these chapters will prove useful not only to the specialist in lymphoma but also to general oncologists and fellows who manage these diseases on a daily basis. The management and classification of lymphoma have grown increasingly complex, rendering it impossible for any one individual to maintain a comprehensive knowledge base of these diverse diseases.

I am indebted to all of the outstanding clinicians and scientists who have prepared such thoughtful, timely, and well-written chapters in their fields of expertise. These chapters not only present contemporary data but also should serve to stimulate further discussion and research for both the specialist in lymphoma and the general oncologist.

I appreciate the invitation and encouragement of Bruce Chabner to undertake the editing of this volume. Dr. Chabner has served as a mentor and friend and represents a role model for the academic clinician. Likewise, I thank Brian Decker for his editorial guidance and production assistance. His professionalism and attention to detail helped to bring this project to fruition.

Finally, I dedicate this volume to Sarah Jane, Lily, and Lucy (who arrived in time for its completion).

Michael L. Grossbard, MD
November 2001