# American Cancer Society

## Atlas of Clinical Oncology

### Series Volumes

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Notice: The authors and publisher have made every effort to ensure that the patient care recommended herein, including choice of drugs and drug dosages, is in accord with the accepted standard and practice at the time of publication. However, since research and regulation constantly change clinical standards, the reader is urged to check the product information sheet included in the package of each drug, which includes recommended doses, warnings, and contraindications. This is particularly important with new or infrequently used drugs.
Contributors

DAVID S. ALBERTS, MD
Arizona Cancer Center
University of Arizona
Tucson, Arizona
Prevention of Colorectal Cancer: Epidemiological Evidence and Chemoprevention

ANTHONY L. BACK, MD
Associate Professor
VA Puget Sound Health Care System
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington
Palliative Care for Patients with Lower Gastrointestinal Tract Malignancies

WILLIAM R. BRUGGE, MD
Director, Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
Massachusetts General Hospital
Harvard Medical School
Boston, Massachusetts
Endoscopic Management of Colon and Rectal Cancer

JEFF CLARK, MD
Massachusetts General Hospital
Dana Farber Cancer Institute
Assistant Professor in Medicine
Harvard Medical School
Boston, Massachusetts
Systemic Therapy Approaches for Colorectal Cancer

CAROLYN C. COMPTON, MD, PhD
Professor and Chair
Department of Pathology
McGill University
Montreal, Quebec
Pathology and Staging

EDWARD GIOVANNUCCI, MD, ScD
Associate Professor of Medicine
Channing Laboratory
Department of Medicine
Brigham and Women’s Hospital & Harvard Medical School
Associate Professor of Nutrition and of Epidemiology
Departments of Nutrition and Epidemiology
Harvard School of Public Health
Boston, Massachusetts
Prevention of Colorectal Cancer: Epidemiological Evidence and Chemoprevention

TIMOTHY D. JENKINS, MD
Instructor of Medicine
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Genetics of Colorectal Carcinoma

BERNARD LEVIN, MD
Vice President for Cancer Prevention
MD Anderson Cancer Center
The University of Texas
Houston, Texas
Colorectal Cancer Prevention and Early Detection

MARÍA ELENA MARTÍNEZ, PHD, RD
Arizona Cancer Center
University of Arizona
Research Assistant Professor
College of Public Health
Tucson, Arizona
Prevention of Colorectal Cancer: Epidemiological Evidence and Chemoprevention
MARK L. MONTGOMERY, MD
Scott and White Clinic
Texas A & M Health Science Center
Temple, Texas
*Diagnostic Radiology of Colon and Rectal Cancer*

PETER R. MUELLER, MD
Professor of Radiology
Harvard Medical School
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
*Diagnostic Radiology of Colon and Rectal Cancer*

MARK J. OTT, MD
Massachusetts General Hospital
Division of Surgical Oncology
Boston, Massachusetts
*Surgery of Primary Colon and Rectal Cancer*

JEAN-PIERRE E.N. PIERIE, MD, PhD
Chief Resident in Surgery
University Medical Center Utrecht
Utrecht, The Netherlands
*Surgery of Primary Colon and Rectal Cancer*

ANIL K. RUSTGI, MD
T. Grier Miller Associate Professor of Medicine & Genetics
Chief of Gastroenterology
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
*Genetics of Colorectal Carcinoma*

DAVID P. RYAN, MD
Instructor in Medicine
Harvard Medical School
Boston, Massachusetts
*Colon and Rectal Carcinoma: An Overview*

KENNETH K. TANABE, MD
Chief, Division of Surgical Oncology
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
*Surgical Management of Metastatic Colon and Rectal Cancer*

ROGER J. WALTZMAN, MD
Mount Sinai Medical Center
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
Division of Medical Oncology
New York, New York
*Palliative Care for Patients with Lower Gastrointestinal Tract Malignancies*

CHRISTOPHER G. WILLETT, MD
Professor, Harvard Medical School
Clinical Director
Department of Radiation Oncology
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts
*Radiation Therapy in Colon and Rectal Cancer*

SAM S. YOON, MD
Fellow, Division of Surgical Oncology
Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School
Boston, Massachusetts
*Surgical Management of Metastatic Colon and Rectal Cancer*

ANALYSIS 

The contributors include medical professionals from various institutions, focusing on different aspects of colorectal cancer. The contributors are marked by their roles, institutions, and specific areas of expertise, such as diagnostic radiology, surgical oncology, gastroenterology, genetics, and radiation therapy. This diversity indicates a comprehensive approach to understanding and managing colorectal cancer, covering diagnostic, surgical, and therapeutic perspectives.
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Cancer of the Lower Gastrointestinal Tract, An American Cancer Society monograph, is a timely analysis of the biology, diagnosis, and therapy of cancer of the colon, rectum, and anus. This monograph is intended as a useful resource for physicians, scientists, medical students, and allied health personnel in the disciplines of gastroenterology, oncology, and pathology. Renowned contributors from different medical disciplines have written their chapters in a thoughtful, provocative, and visual fashion.

This monograph is divided into 13 chapters. Early chapters (1–2) address the etiology, risk factors, and prevention of colon and rectal cancer followed by chapters (3–5) detailing the revolutionary developments in the genetics and pathology of this malignancy. Chapter 4 comprehensively reviews and outlines the prevention, early detection, and contemporary screening guidelines of colon and rectal cancer. These sections are then followed by chapters (6–7) on endoscopy and diagnostic radiology of colon and rectal cancer. The current multimodality treatment of primary colon and rectal cancer is discussed in three integrative chapters (8–10) from the vantage points of surgery, radiation therapy, and chemotherapy. The challenges and developments in the management of patients with metastatic colon and rectal cancer (surgery, chemotherapy, and innovative and targeted therapies) are presented in two chapters (10–11). Although the focus of this book is colon and rectal cancer, one chapter is dedicated to a comprehensive examination of the epidemiology, biology, and evolving therapy of a unique malignancy, cancer of the anus (12). Finally, the monograph concludes with an excellent discussion of the complex and difficult issues of palliative care for patients with cancer of the lower gastrointestinal tract (13).

I would like to thank Bruce Chabner, MD, and Glenn Steele, Jr, MD, PhD, for their helpful suggestions.

Christopher G. Willett, MD
August, 2000
Dedication

To my friend and colleague, Ira J. Spiro, MD, PhD.