BOOK REVIEWS

SECONDARY SPREAD IN BREAST CANCER. Basil A. Stoll (ed). Great Britain, William Heinemann Medical Books, Ltd., 1977, (distributed by Year Book Medical Publishers, Inc.) 245 pp, $13.95.

This book is Volume 3 of the series entitled *New Aspects of Breast Cancer* and is devoted to the mechanisms of breast cancer metastases and to their treatment.

The text is divided into two sections. The first section, "Factors Influencing Spread," consists of seven chapters. Chapter 1 describes some of the procedures and indices used for measuring growth kinetics in cancer, particularly breast cancer. Chapter 2 discusses the use of thermography to assess the growth activity of the primary tumor, and also includes the histopathologic criteria of host-tumor interaction.

Chapter 3 describes the important phenomenon of local recurrence. It is examined from several aspects including location, incidence, time until onset, and the tumor-host relationship. Chapter 4 complements Chapter 3 indicating the clinical importance of the evaluation of axillary nodal involvement in the management of breast cancer. Chapter 5 thoroughly reviews the significance of circulating cancer cells and concludes that this aspect is still unproven.

Chapter 6 discusses in depth factors that influence skeletal metastases and the sites of metastatic disease. The mechanisms of osteolysis, including PTH, PGE_1, PGE_2, calcitomin, and tumor osteolysis (breast tumors producing specific osteolytic substances) are described. Calcium metabolism abnormalities, particularly hypercalcemia or hypercalciuria, in breast cancer are discussed. Chapter 7, which concludes the first section, reviews the possible biological mechanisms responsible for metastasis, such as enzymes and a decrease in adhesiveness between cancer cells as compared to normal cells.

Section 2, "Spread in Relation to Treatment," contains Chapters 8 through 13. Chapter 8 describes the many serum markers that may become of major clinical value in the evaluation of breast cancer. These markers include breast tissue products, oncofetal antigens, hormones, enzymes, cell-turnover products, tumor-associated antigens, plasma proteins, and urinary hydroxyproline. Presently, these markers are of value in detecting metastases only late in their evolution. The goal is to be able to detect metastases at a very early stage and eventually to detect the primary tumor before the development of metastases.

The role of radiotheraphy in the treatment of breast cancer is discussed in Chapter 9. Some conclusions regarding the relationship between radiotherapy, host immunity, and cancer spread are controversial among clinicians, particularly radiation oncologists who treat breast cancer. Chapter 10 reviews the relationship between different hormones, hormone receptors, and breast cancer. The different types of hormonal manipulation that may cause a change in breast cancer activity are described. The next chapter reviews the role of chemotherapy in the management of breast cancer, and it is enhanced by a discussion of some basic concepts of cell cycle kinetics.

Chapter 12 describes research for pharmaceuticals to prevent metastases or for the selective treatment of metastases. This type of therapeutic approach to breast cancer management is yet to be fully developed. The last chapter reviews the biochemical mechanisms, particularly endocrine, involved in breast tumor regression as studied in animals.

Each chapter has an extensive bibliography. This text, written mostly by European and British contributors, provides a review of the pathophysiology and treatment of breast cancer metastases and would make interesting reading to those researchers and clinicians involved in the management of breast cancer patients.

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A COLOR ATLAS OF SECTIONAL ANATOMY: CHEST, ABDOMEN, AND PELVIS, E. A. Lyons. St. Louis, The C.V. Mosby Company, 1978, pp 317, $137.50.

"The purpose of this Atlas is to portray normal anatomy and anatomical relationships in as simplistic a manner as possible." The author has clearly stated his goal and has just as clearly succeeded.

The atlas presents the anatomy of the chest, abdomen, and pelvis (both male and female) in three major planes—transverse, parasagittal, and coronal. Serial sections, 1-cm thick, were prepared from frozen cadavers not previously embalmed. To accentuate and easily identify the vascular structures, the major arterial system was injected with red latex and the venous system with blue. The advantages of this type of preparation are readily appreciated by the results. The natural colors of the organs are preserved, and the appearance of the vascular structures, although artificially accentuated, relate to our familar perception of arterial and venous vessels. The sections are presented in a serial manner that permits visual continuity of the organs and their relationships. To facilitate identification of the structures in each section, a labeled, one-to-one line drawing of the section appears on the opposing page. The preparations of sections, the photography, and the line drawings are of superb quality. As an added bonus, 35-mm film strips of the sections are included.

Not only does a well-done anatomic work, such as this, have artistic appeal, but it is also extremely useful to the diagnostician from a practical standpoint. Moreover, the presentation of sections from the three major planes makes this a unique volume, for it anticipates the developments in computer processing of imaging data. Currently, ultrasonic images are obtained in these three planes; transmission computerized tomography is similarly becoming available in this manner; emission computerized tomography will provide such images within the next few years.

Many anatomic relationships are not appreciated even by the clinician who works daily with anatomic diagnoses. The value of an atlas of this type is that these relationships are easily perceived. This atlas is a necessary addition to the library of clinicians involved in diagnostic imaging, and many other clinicians and basic scientists will also find it helpful. Although most medical texts become outdated, this type of anatomical atlas maintains its value.

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