Clinical ophthalmic oncology with CD-ROM

Arun D Singh, MD, Bertil E Damato, PhD, FRCS, FRCOphth, Jacob Péér, MD, A Linn Murphree, MD and Julian David Perry, MD
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The Clinical Ophthalmic Oncology edited by Arun D Singh, Bertil E Damato, Jacob Pe'er, A Linn Murphree, and Julian D Perry includes a large number of distinguished contributors from all around the world. As such, this book represents a formidable effort on the part of the editors and the publisher who finalized each chapter in a similar layout. Also, all of the authors making this significant input should be congratulated for their efforts.

Clinical Ophthalmic Oncology provides up-to-date information on the entire spectrum of intraocular as well as ocular adnexal tumours and simulating conditions. The book is organized into seven sections including basic principles, eyelid tumours, conjunctival and corneal tumours, uveal tumours, tumours of the retina and retinal pigment epithelium, retinoblastoma, and orbital tumours. One of the distinguishing features of this book is

the basic principles section. There are several chapters in this section dealing with topics such as cancer genetics, cancer epidemiology, angiogenesis, principles of treatment methods including cryotherapy, laser treatment, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, and patient counselling. This section contains quite diverse material that is difficult to find together in one single source.

The text is easy to read and well illustrated with several figures, tables, and boxes that highlight the key elements. The section on uveal tumours incorporates several chapters on different treatment methods for uveal malignant melanoma including plaque radiotherapy, proton beam radiotherapy, stereotactic radiotherapy, and resection techniques. In this way, the reader can gather authoritative information from the advocates of each treatment method. There is also a chapter on the COMS (collaborative ocular melanoma study), which is particularly helpful for those who want to see the results of this prospective study in a concise fashion. The section on retinoblastoma covers all aspects of the disease including intraocular, orbital, and metastatic retinoblastoma. The chapters dealing with genetic testing and family counselling are of interest to the

ocular oncologist as well as paediatric oncologists and other allied staff involved in the care of this group of patients. The chapters on extraocular manifestations of retinoblastoma should be particularly useful to readers in the developing parts of the world. The orbital tumour section is probably the most condensed part of the book. It deals with the more commonly seen orbital disorders as well as certain aspects of orbital surgery.

The book is published in colour, which adds greatly to its usefulness as a reference source and guide in the clinic. It also comes with a CD incorporating some of the illustrations and figures in a downloadable format. This may allow free dissemination of the material contained in the book for scientific purposes.

In conclusion, *Clinical Ophthalmic Oncology* is an extremely valuable resource for ocular oncologists as well as general ophthalmologists who have an interest in the field. It should also be a helpful resource for other physicians such as radiotherapists, pathologists, oncologists, and paediatric oncologists involved in the care of the eye tumour patients.

K Gunduz

Department of Ophthalmology, Ankara University Faculty of Medicine, Dikimevi, Ankara, Turkey