Carcinoma of the Esophagus
Contemporary Issues in Cancer Imaging
A Multidisciplinary Approach

Series Editors
Rodney H. Reznek
Cancer Imaging, St. Bartholomew’s Hospital, London

Janet E. Husband
Diagnostic Radiology, Royal Marsden Hospital, Surrey

Current titles in the series
Cancer of the Ovary
Lung Cancer
Colorectal Cancer
Carcinoma of the Kidney

Forthcoming titles in the series
Carcinoma of the Bladder
Prostate Cancer
Squamous Cell Cancer of the Neck
Pancreatic Cancer
Interventional Radiological Treatment of Liver Tumours
Carcinoma of the Esophagus

Edited by
Sheila C. Rankin

Series Editors
Rodney H. Reznek
Janet E. Husband
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Contributors

Andreas Adam, MB, BS (HONS), FRCP, FRCS, FRCR, FFRRCSI (HON.)
Professor Interventional Radiology
Guy’s, King’s and St. Thomas’ School of Medicine
London, UK

Naama R. Bogot
Attending Radiologist
Department of Radiology
Hadassah Hebrew University Medical Center
Jerusalem, Israel
Lecturer
Department of Radiology
Division of Cardiothoracic Imaging
University of Michigan Health System, USA

Harriet M. R. Deere, MBBS, MRCPATH
Consultant Histopathologist
Department of Histopathology
Guy’s and St. Thomas’ Foundation Trust
London, UK

Peter Harper, FRCP
Consultant Medical Oncologist
Guy’s and St. Thomas’ Foundation Trust
London, UK

Jin-Yong Kang, MD, PHD, FRCP, FRCPED, FRACP
Consultant Gastroenterologist and Honorary Senior Lecturer
St. George’s Hospital, London

David Landau, MRCP, FRCR
Consultant Clinical Oncologist
Guy’s and St. Thomas’ Foundation Trust
London, UK

Anne Marie Lennon, PHD, MRCP
Specialist Registrar
Lothian University Hospitals Division
Western General Hospital, Edinburgh

Laurence B. Lovat, BSC, PHD, FRCP
Consultant Gastroenterologist and Senior Lecturer in Laser Medicine
National Medical Laser Centre
University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
London, UK

Robert Mason, BSC, CHM, MD, FRCS
Consultant Upper GI Surgeon
Guy’s and St. Thomas’ Foundation Trust
St. Thomas’ Hospital
London, UK
viii Contributors

Satvinder S. Mudan, BSc, MD, FRCS
Consultant in Surgical Oncology
Royal Marsden Hospital
London, UK

Sheila C. Rankin, FRCR
Consultant Radiologist
Guy’s and St. Thomas’ Foundation Trust
London, UK

Ian D. Penman, MD, FRCPEdin
Consultant Gastroenterologist
Lothian University Hospitals Division
Western General Hospital, Edinburgh

Tarun Sabharwal, FRCR, FRCSI
Consultant Interventional Radiologist and
Honorary Senior Lecturer
Guy’s and St. Thomas’ Foundation Trust
Department of Radiology
St. Thomas’ Hospital
London, UK

Leslie Eisenbud Quint, MD
Professor of Radiology
Division of Cardiothoracic Imaging
University of Michigan Health System
Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA
Series foreword

Imaging has become pivotal in all aspects of the management of patients with cancer. At the same time, it is acknowledged that optimal patient care is best achieved by a multidisciplinary team approach. The explosion of technological developments in imaging over the past years has meant that all members of the multidisciplinary team should understand the potential applications, limitations, and advantages of all the evolving and exciting imaging techniques. Equally, to understand the significance of the imaging findings and to contribute actively to management decisions and to the development of new clinical applications for imaging, it is critical that the radiologist should have sufficient background knowledge of different tumors. Thus the radiologist should understand the pathology, the clinical background, the therapeutic options, and prognostic indicators of malignancy.

Contemporary Issues in Cancer Imaging: A Multidisciplinary Approach aims to meet the growing requirement for radiologists to have detailed knowledge of the individual tumors in which they are involved in making management decisions. A series of single subject issues, each of which will be dedicated to a single tumor site, edited by recognized expert guest editors, will include contributions from basic scientists, pathologists, surgeons, oncologists, radiologists, and others.

While the series is written predominantly for the radiologist, it is hoped that individual issues will contain sufficient varied information so as to be of interest to all medical disciplines and to other health professionals managing patients with cancer. As with imaging, advances have occurred in all these disciplines related to cancer management and it is our fervent hope that this series, bringing together expertise from such a range of related specialties, will not only promote the understanding and rational application of modern imaging but will also help to achieve the ultimate goal of improving outcomes of patient with cancer.

Rodney H. Reznek
London

Janet E. Husband
London
Preface to Carcinoma of the Esophagus

Esophageal cancer is a relatively uncommon but highly lethal malignancy. The incidence of adenocarcinoma is rapidly increasing, and improved survival will depend on prevention, earlier diagnosis, improved staging, and appropriate treatment.

As is the case with other malignancies, it is the multidisciplinary team approach toward patient care that determines the appropriate management of patients with esophageal cancer. For this approach to be effective, it is essential for all members of the multidisciplinary team to understand the role of imaging in esophageal cancer, its advantages, and limitations. Equally, it is vital for the radiologist to appreciate the clinical context of the imaging.

This volume provides a detailed review of new endoscopic methods of diagnosis, staging using both conventional and functional imaging, and assessment of surgical and medical methods of therapy.

Sheila C. Rankin