Lymphoma

Pathology, Diagnosis, and Treatment

Second Edition
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Preface to second edition

Since the first edition we have seen a number of important changes in the diagnosis, staging and therapy for many lymphoma subtypes. We are beginning to observe how molecular and cytogenetic characteristics can profoundly influence prognosis and that such tools should now be as much a part of our diagnostic armamentarium as histology and immunophenotyping.

In the near future we expect that “next generation” sequencing will also have a considerable impact not only on our understanding of the pathogenesis of lymphoma, but also on our selection of therapy. We can also envisage how such techniques will themselves also lead to less toxic and more targeted therapies.

We have seen the steady increase in the incorporation of PET and PET CT into staging, risk-adapted therapy, and reassessment such that the presence of a PET/CT scanner and radiologic expertise should now be an essential in every major Lymphoma centre. The promise and precautions for this important tool are summarized within this edition.

In terms of therapy, the steady progress in both the use of monoclonal antibodies and new treatment regimens is reflected in the updated chapters. Lymphoma specialists are also beginning to see the incorporation of agents that block intra-cellular signaling pathways into clinical practice, notably ibrutinib in CLL/SLL and mantle cell lymphoma, and idelalisib in indolent B-cell lymphoproliferative disorders. These specifically targeted therapies give us hope that, in the very near future, the management of lymphoma will be both more effective and less toxic.

In this new edition we have also endeavored to rectify some of the omissions in the previous edition; in particular, we have now additional chapters on Lymphoplasmacytoid Lymphoma and Atypical Lymphoproliferative disorders that make the book more comprehensive.

Once again we have incorporated biology, pathogenesis, histopathology, and therapy into each disease based chapter, we hope the “joins” do not show too much and are most grateful indeed to Drs. Ott, Rosenwald, and Wotherspoon for allowing their contributions on molecular biology and histopathology, respectively, to be separated and distributed as before.

Our thanks are due too to all the authors and to colleagues at CUP for their hard work and forbearance in the preparation of this new edition.

Robert Marcus
John Sweetenham
Michael Williams
Preface to first edition

Why publish a book on lymphoma in 2007? Surely there are sufficient reviews, meetings and published educational symposia to make such a work redundant. Furthermore, doesn’t instant access to online information make any work in print out of date before it appears?

The editors and authors of this work think not. We firmly believe that there is still a place for a clear summary of the diagnosis, staging and therapy of lymphoma in a single volume that reflect the advances in these areas which have taken place over the past five years. The problem with the plethora of information now available is that it is rarely set in a framework of understanding of the major challenges which still face those involved with the diagnosis and therapy of non-Hodgkin’s and Hodgkin’s lymphomas. We, and our patients, are confronted with many facts but little judgment. This work is our modest attempt to rectify this.

Accordingly the layout of the book should enable the reader to gain an understanding of patterns of disease, methods of staging, principles of new approaches to therapy, and interpretation of clinical trials and prognostic markers by reading the first part of the book. In the second part the reader will find separate succinct yet comprehensive reviews of the individual disease entities which make up the spectrum of diseases comprising the lymphomas. Here we have integrated pathology, molecular biology and therapy for each subtype into a single chapter; the reader will not need to flick backwards and forwards to gain a comprehensive understanding of, say, follicular or diffuse large B-cell lymphoma. Such an integration has posed significant editorial challenges, and has been made possible by a willingness on the part of Dr Wotherspoon, Dr Rosenwald and co-workers to accept that their contributions on histopathology and molecular cytogenetics would be divided and distributed among the relevant chapters. The editors are most grateful for their support.

Each chapter in followed by a select bibliography rather than an exhaustive list of references. We feel that these date very quickly, take up disproportionate amounts of space and are better found by internet searches or perusal of current journals.

This book is intended for senior trainees and fellows in hematology and oncology, together with more experienced practitioners who regularly treat these disorders. It is not intended for those who may feel they could have written the chapters themselves. It is also not a book where the reader will find detailed descriptions of rarities seen once in a professional lifetime.

The appearance of this volume comes at an opportune time: we have seen over the past five years a profound understanding of the pathology of lymphoma, the use of increasingly sophisticated imaging techniques, and the integration of monoclonal antibodies into standard therapy for NHL. Our hope is that these radical changes in the way we diagnose and treat lymphoma have been reflected in the book and will stand the reader in good stead even when newer data become available.

The editors express their sincere and heartfelt thanks to all the authors, who have, in the main, responded promptly to our comments and recommendations, and to all those at Cambridge University Press who have helped with this project: Richard Barling, who set the wheels of this vehicle in motion, and especially Betty Fulford and Deborah Russell, who kept it moving to its final destination whenever it threatened to stall.
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