Multidisciplinary Management of Rectal Cancer

Questions and Answers

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1. Auflage 2012. Taschenbuch. XII, 367 S. Paperback
ISBN 978 3 642 25004 0
Format (B x L): 17,8 x 25,4 cm

Weitere Fachgebiete > Medizin > Klinische und Innere Medizin > Onkologie, Psychoonkologie

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Preface

In an era where all patients are entitled to access healthcare systems that enable the highest quality of treatment delivered within a safe healthcare environment, and access to appropriate advice, support and long term follow-up, the multidisciplinary team is of central importance and a critical requirement in the development of modern oncology.

Joint efforts of different specialists involved in the diagnosis, staging, treatment and evaluation of outcomes in rectal cancer throughout Europe to promote mutual understanding and collaboration by managing multidisciplinary consensus conferences (EURECA-CC1-2) and the publication of their recommendation were undertaken.

This was extended to a multidisciplinary teaching course (5 editions across Europe and 1 in China) and culminated to the endorsement of these activities by European cancer societies like ESTRO, ESSO and ESMO and hence creating the background to the holistic approach in promoting the multidisciplinarity of this book.

The aim of this book is to report the most common questions that arose in the practice of a multidisciplinary team, devoted to address the health request of patients with rectal cancer. A recognised group of clinicians, mostly involved in the management of the more significant trials published in Europe in the last decade, were requested to provide simple and focused answers to support the best choices in a multidisciplinary setting. We are very grateful to their enthusiastic and fully supportive participation to this project.

With this book we hope to contribute to improve the overall care of the patient, supporting the multidisciplinary teams in their unique responsibility for patient’s on-going care and wellbeing.

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