The chapter on adjuvant therapy in colorectal cancer stresses the importance of well-delivered adjuvant systemic therapy given within a multidisciplinary setting.

There are a few errors in some otherwise excellent chapters. Intraoperative radiotherapy for colorectal, pancreatic or breast cancers (a promising new advance that is being tested in international clinical trials) is not mentioned anywhere, perhaps because it has featured in earlier editions. A key point in (malignant [sic]) melanoma, states that the majority of melanomas arise from pre-existing moles. This may be a typo - in fact over half of melanomas arise from normal skin. Another possible typo suggests that itching, crusting, bleeding of >6mm diameter are not significantly suspicious.

I would have liked a description of diagnostic dermatoscopy, that could range from a magnifying glass to digital image archiving and of spontaneous regression that forebears a very poor prognosis. The chapter on carotid endarterectomy could have alluded to the ever improving techniques of angioplasty and stenting that may soon replace the operation.

On the whole, the book stands up to its reputation. Many interesting subjects are covered. They are explained lucidly with up-to-date concepts and references. It is yet another addition to the must-have list.

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