

# RADIATION ONCOLOGY

Rationale • Technique • Results

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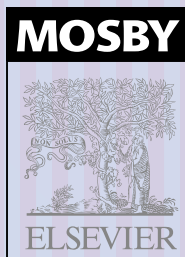
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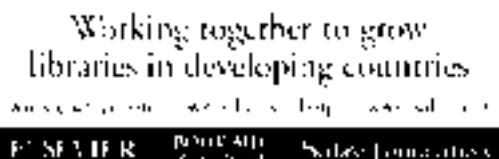
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# PREFACE

Radiation oncology has undergone a major transformation in the past few years. Results of three-dimensional conformal radiation therapy and intensity-modulated radiation therapy have confirmed the promise that was evident from treatment-planning studies and early results of phase II and phase III trials. Advances in functional and metabolic imaging have augmented the tools for evaluating disease and planning treatments. Refinements of cytotoxic chemotherapy in conjunction with radiation therapy have reduced side effects and improved efficacy. The rapidly developing arena of molecular therapeutic agents and the emerging ability to select some agents based on molecular abnormalities in tumors promise to revolutionize combined modality therapy. Surgical procedures have emphasized preservation of structures, video assistance, and robotic tools such that the indications for adjuvant radiation therapy have been expanded and modified.

This ninth edition has updated, replaced, and eliminated chapters from previous editions to seek the most contemporary discussions of principles and specific disease sites. New contributors have been enlisted and new subjects have been added. In recognition of the importance of color displays, most figures in the ninth edition are now in color. This greatly enhances the value of the figures, especially those that show dose distributions for specific diseases.

As in previous editions, we have sought consistency in the presentation of each chapter. Each begins with discussions of effects of treatments on normal tissues. Emphasis has been placed on synthesis of the available literature for clarity and brevity. The thrust of this approach is accessibility of radiation oncology to students and colleagues from other disciplines as well as physicians, physicist, and biologists from various countries. We are thankful to our colleagues who have worked arduously to meet the guidelines we have set for presenting their material in this manner.

This edition has been prepared in the context of ongoing care of patients, research, and administration. We are grateful to those who have worked with us to permit its completion. We are indebted beyond words to Christine Wogan, who has edited this edition and the previous one. Her knowledge and advice has served to gather the thoughts and words of the many contributors into a more unified whole. Her patience and goodwill are without compare.

**James D. Cox, M.D.**

**K. Kian Ang, M.D., Ph.D.**

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