

## BOOK REVIEW

### **Textbook of Lung Cancer. Second Edition**

Edited by H. Hansen

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This comprehensive textbook on lung cancer comprises 274 pages of text, excluding appendix and index, with tables and some figures. All the relevant aspects of lung cancer are dealt with, from aetiology to therapy, cost-effectiveness of therapy and the future of lung cancer. There are even two chapters on tobacco. As no cure can be offered to most patients it is good to see a chapter that covers quality of life and supportive care. There is also a chapter on malignant mesothelioma, but text about mediastinal tumours is lacking.

The book is well written and easy to read with a good layout, although some tables could have been condensed in size. In most chapters references are up to date with citations up to 2006 or 2007; however, some chapters are less up to date.

The chapter on histopathology does not address the neuroendocrine tumours as one group, although the author, E. Brambilla, is an expert in the field. Less frequent variants of typical tumours are dealt with briefly. The chapter on staging only briefly addresses the emerging important role of EUS-FNA, and endobronchial ultrasound or transtracheal needle biopsies are not mentioned at all. This may reflect the surgical background of both authors.

The chapters on therapy are divided into three main components: surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy, for both NSCLC and SCLC. It might have been more practical to discuss therapy stage by stage in successive chapters, looking at the emergence of multimodality, and to deal with chemotherapy first in SCLC for this is the cornerstone of therapy for this type of tumour. However, may be this is a matter of taste, as the summary chapter on therapy is very useful in providing a complete image. The topic of multimodality treatment of stage-III NSCLC is discussed elaborately in several chapters. The final chapter on the future of lung cancer does not compensate much for these missing data, although otherwise this is a very useful chapter.

Given these individual comments, the book provides a lot of information that, in most fields, is as up to date as a book can be. Altogether this book is worth considering for doctors treating lung cancer patients.

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