

Author-Series

Medical Radiology Diagnostic Imaging

Vogl

Title

Percutaneous Tumor Ablation in Medical
Radiology

ISBN

978-3-540-22518-8

Editor-Subsid-Client

Heilmann U.

Journal

RAD Magazine

Month-Year

October 2008

Volume

Issue

Page

4

Country

UK

Language

English

Notes

Reviews of the week

Useful resource on PTA will serve as a starting point

Percutaneous Tumor Ablation in Medical Radiology, by T J Vogl, T K Helmlberger, M G Mack and M F Reiser. Published by Springer Verlag, price £107.50.

Reviewed by Dr Gail ter Haar, Head of Therapeutic, Physics Department, Royal Marsden Hospital, Sutton, Surrey.

"Percutaneous Tumor Ablation" is a new volume in the series Medical Radiology: Diagnostic Imaging and Radiation Oncology published by Springer Verlag. The book aims to help radiologists improve their skills in percutaneous image guided ablation techniques.

Locoregional chemotherapy and thermal ablative therapies are introduced, and clinical and practical aspects, latest advances and applications of these techniques are discussed.

For the purposes of this volume, "tumour ablation" is defined as "the direct application of thermal or chemical therapies to a specific focal tumour in order to achieve either eradication or substantial tumour destruction".

The concentration on percutaneous techniques means that extracorporeal techniques, such as high intensity focused ultrasound (HIFU), have been excluded. This seems to be a missed opportunity. Cryoablation is also not included.

In this multi-author book, after an initial chapter on the "Basic Principles in Oncology", the technologies of percutaneous ablative techniques are introduced. There are individual chapters on radiofrequency, microwave and laser

BOOK REVIEW

ablation, and on vascular ablative (locoregional therapy and transarterial chemoembolisation (TACE)), actinic ablative (high dose rate brachytherapy, selective internal radiotherapy and intra-arterial Iodine-131-Lipiodol) and instillation (alcohol and bone cement) techniques.

The final two sections of the book cover clinical indications (including liver, kidney, soft tissue, muscular skeletal, head and neck, and bone) and treatment strategies (for hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) and bone).

The introductory chapters provide useful broad overviews of the different techniques. For specific technical detail and an understanding of the scientific basis, the reader is guided towards wider references as these are not thoroughly covered here.

In the clinical chapters, indications and contra-indications are well covered, generally in a very clear style. The illustrative material is in general excellent, with well chosen examples of treatment efficacy.

As with many multi-author works, there is some variation in the way things are covered and, in this context, it is a pity that the chapters have no uniformity of style. Overall this book provides a useful resource and will probably be used mostly as a starting point for finding out more about individual treatment techniques.

RAD Magazine October 2008