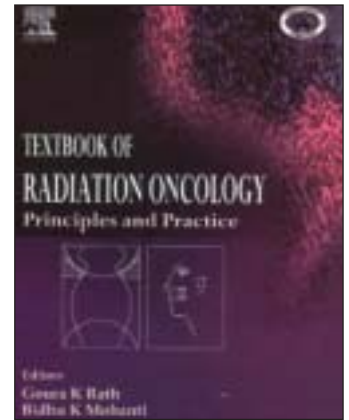


# Textbook of radiation oncology: Principles and practice

Gaura K Rath, Bidhu K Mohanti



The 'good' management of Cancer, a potentially curable and complex disease, requires at least 3 things; understanding of the basic principles of oncology involving the causation of cancer, its spread, likely behaviour, the acquaintance with the multidisciplinary approaches to select the best combination in patient's best interest (regardless of physician's speciality) and the thorough knowledge of the modality, one is said to be expert in. The advances in technology leading to better diagnostic and therapeutic approaches, can be of help to patients, only if the basic approach of the oncologist is systematic. Many cancer patients in India suffer and die of the disease eventually, because they don't receive the proper treatment, else they could have been saved. Radiation oncologists are endowed with the responsibility of being complete oncologists, in terms of understanding cancer, in broader perspective, as oncology is the basic field they do postgraduation in. The 'Textbook of Radiation Oncology Principles and Practice' by Dr. G. K. Rath and Dr. B. K. Mohanty provides an excellent introduction to basic oncology and the management of different cancers, sitewise. The authors have given beautiful epidemiologic status of the cancer, sitewise in India, that is difficult to find elsewhere. The data presented of India and Indian experience, gives

insight into the results achieved in India and the difficulties confronted. The chapters on basic radiation physics and biology provide a detailed and enough base for the students joining radiation oncology. In the individual chapters on management of different cancers, authors present nicely, first the guidelines of management i.e. approach to the patients followed by detailed overview of surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy, applicable to the particular site. The different radiation techniques in external beam therapy and their optimization with use of beam modifying devices for individual sites, is presented comprehensively. Role and use of brachytherapy techniques for individual sites, is also presented in detailed fashion. In addition, complications of different treatment modalities and their management, is given in very practical manner, which will be useful for the students and novice radiation oncologists. The chapter on newer radiotherapy techniques provides a good initial outlook of these techniques, which will be useful, as their role in near future sets in clinical practice. I feel this book is a useful book of radiation oncology for students being trained in developing countries. In addition, it is quiet useful for practicing oncologists, to refer for the statistical data about the results achieved in India, so far.

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