

## Uro-Oncology: Improved Techniques Produce Better Outcomes

The last issue of *Cancer Control* dedicated to genitourinary malignancies was published only 18 months ago. Within this short period of time, the field of uro-oncology has continued its rapid advance in the fields of surgery, radiation therapy, and medical oncology. Improvements in surgical techniques and radiation therapy technology have dramatically improved local cancer control. Similarly, newer chemotherapeutic agents are improving survival in patients with advanced prostate and kidney cancer.

In this issue of *Cancer Control*, the authors address advances in surgery, radiation therapy, and chemotherapy in the management of urologic malignancies.

Prostate cancer is the most prevalent cancer worldwide and has geographical and racial differences in its clinical presentation. The last decade witnessed both a shift migration toward the detection of earlier stage cancers and a decrease in mortality. The first article in this issue, by Dr Nicolas Delongchamps and coauthors, discusses the impact of the high prevalence of prostate cancer on prostate cancer screening and early detection.

In the surgical field, laparoscopy is now performed as the preferred approach for radical nephrectomy, and its indications for partial nephrectomy are expanding. It is becoming more widely used in prostate surgery, and recent reports will expand its application to bladder and testis cancer. The laparoscopic approach reduces convalescence while maintaining comparable oncologic outcomes to open surgery. Dr Alejandro Rodriguez and I discuss the recent advances in urologic laparoscopy in the management of kidney, bladder, prostate, and testis cancer.

The preservation of quality of life is being increasingly recognized as an important outcome in the managements of patients with cancer. Dr Alejandro Miranda-Souza and coauthors provide an update on the sexual rehabilitation of patients with urologic cancers.

Recent developments in imaging and computer technology are improving the oncologic and functional outcomes of radiation therapy for prostate cancer. Radiation therapy is now the most common treatment for localized prostate cancer. Dr Javier Torres-Roca summarizes and discusses these advances and the indications for external-beam radiation therapy, brachytherapy, or the combination of both.

Until recently, chemotherapy was deemed ineffective in the management of patients with prostate cancer. With the recent report of the effectiveness of taxanes, investigators are exploring newer chemotherapies and targeted treatments in the management of prostate cancer. Dr Winston Tan discusses these newer agents.

Kidney cancer is another genitourinary malignancy in which newer systemic agents are demonstrating improved survival. These advances have redefined the indications for surgery, expanding their use to large tumors and those with renal vein and vena cava involvement. Drs Alejandro Rodriguez and Wade Sexton discuss the surgical approach to these expanded indications for surgery in patients with kidney cancer.

These six articles in this issue of *Cancer Control* provide the reader with an overview of several new developments in the field of uro-oncology.

In addition to these updates in urologic oncology, several other articles appear in this issue. Two address the thorny problems associated with managing metastatic melanoma. Dr Aleem Khan and colleagues report on outcomes from managing the disease by different systemic treatments in a single institution. While clearly not a randomized process, the results nevertheless suggest leads for further research studies. In addition, Stephanie Andrews, ARNP, and coworkers review the improved survival data that accrues from resecting pulmonary metastases of melanoma. When appropriate and feasible, this approach should be used.

Finally, I wish to highlight a novel section of the journal. Capably edited by Dr. Cathy Meade, a new "Regular Department" titled Cancer, Culture and Literacy debuts in this issue. The articles in this feature are described later in the issue.

We trust you will both enjoy and benefit from reading the contents of this issue, and don't forget the CME feature!

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