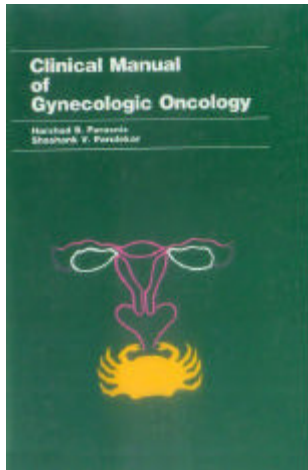


Clinical Manual of Gynecologic Oncology



Gynecologic Oncology is slowly emerging as super specialty in India. Immense progress has been made in our understanding of gynecologic cancers. Now the necessity of special knowledge, skills and training in this field has been recognized. However in most teaching institutes, it still remains a small part of the undergraduate and postgraduate training program, thus leaving a number of lacunae in the knowledge of the student. It is now realized that a large proportion of cancer mortality is due, not so much to the aggressiveness of various forms of cancer, as to the fact that diagnoses are being made too late or that the treatment is not suitable for the type of cancer treated. This endorses our conviction that the fight against cancer could be fought better, first and foremost by improving the training and updating of the doctors

concerned. Undoubtedly, a greater knowledge on their part would contribute to the reduction in mortality and morbidity of gynecologic cancers.

The concepts in gynecologic oncology change frequently and the modes of treatment evolve quite fast. It is often not possible for the standard textbooks of gynecology to keep abreast of all the current developments, leaving much to be desired. Furthermore, these books are based on the standards in the developed countries which are often not applicable to the patients in the developing countries. With this in mind, we decided to write this manual.

This book gives a rational approach to managing patients with gynecologic cancers. The initial part of the book lays emphasis on various diagnostic modalities and therapeutic options. Investigative modalities like cytology, colposcopy, ultrasonography, computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging have been covered extensively. Realizing the importance of tumor markers in genital cancers, a separate chapter has been included. Basics of chemotherapy and radiation, which form an integral part in the multidisciplinary approach, have been adequately covered. We have dealt with individual malignancies in great details, including their pathology, clinical presentation and a lucid working plan of management. Various management options have been reviewed and recommended therapy has been emphasized. References have been carefully selected to provide a comprehensive overview of the subject. A separate chapter on cancer in pregnancy is included keeping in view the peculiar problems involved in decision making, especially in young women with viable fetuses.

The chapter on operative techniques covers all possible gynecologic oncological procedures, both major and minor, in great detail. They have been supplemented profusely with illustrations, to help the reader understand all the operative steps. Postoperative care and palliation have been concisely stressed. The chapter on sexual morbidity deals with preventive and rehabilitative sexual therapy. We have included a large number of illustrations, including photographs of pathology, radiographs, color plates of cytology, colposcopy and histopathology. The fear of making the book voluminous has refrained us from including more of them.

Preventive oncology is a very important part of gynecologic oncology. We have covered this topic with up to date information on various preventive measures

and the National Cancer Control Program. A special chapter on gynecologic oncology services has been included, to list the various treatment centers in India, so that one can refer patients from any part the country to an appropriate tertiary center for further treatment and rehabilitation.

We hope that this manual will guide all individuals who care for patients with genital malignancies. It may also serve as a basis for review prior to university examinations. It will guide a busy gynecologist in dealing with gynecologic cancer patients while gynecologic oncologist may use the manual for practical reference.