Preface

It is a pleasure to present a special issue devoted to 'Cancer of the larynx: Current concepts in the treatment of the neck', as this highly-specialized topic is of growing interest.

Cervical metastasis has been identified in the literature as the most adverse independent prognostic factor in cancer of the larynx and the status of the neck often determines the choice of treatment for the primary lesion. In the last decade, many advances have been made in our understanding of the mechanisms of the biology of tumor invasion, lymph node metastasis, the pattern of spread of laryngeal cancer, clinical and pathological diagnostic procedures for detecting cervical metastases, and the use of different surgical and nonsurgical modalities for the management of the neck.

The authors have been selected for their high stature in their respective subspecialist fields. It has been a pleasure to cooperate with these distinguished authorities and there has been a fruitful, continuous exchange of opinions and information during the preparation of this special issue.

In the first article, Dr. G.J. Petruzzelli discusses the biology of tumor invasion, angiogenesis, and lymph node metastasis in laryngeal cancer. This is followed by a very interesting article dealing with the new imaging-based classification for describing the location of lymph nodes in the neck, with particular regard to cervical lymph nodes in relation to cancer of the larynx, written by Drs. P.M. Som, H.D. Curtin and A.A. Mancuso. The diagnostic procedures for detecting lymph node metastases in cancer of the larynx are presented by Drs. R.J. Kau, Ch. Alexiou, H. Stimmer and W. Arnold. The fourth article, written by Drs. S.L. Devaney, A. Ferlito, A. Rinaldo and K.O. Devaney, is devoted to the pathology of neck dissection in cancer of the larynx. The subsequent article, written by Drs. A. Ferlito, P.M. Som, A. Rinaldo and V. Mondin, concerns the classification and terminology of neck dissection. It is hoped that this approach will eliminate many often confusing and nondescriptive terms and thereby facilitate better inter-physician and inter-institutional communication. The sixth article considers surgical treatment of the neck in cancer of the larynx and is written by Drs. A. Ferlito, C.E. Silver, A. Rinaldo and R.V. Smith. Finally, Drs. G.J. Petruzzelli and B. Emami devote the last article to the nonsurgical treatment of advanced metastatic cervical disease in cancer of the larynx.

The editors and authors hope that the reader will find this special issue useful, informative and interesting.

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