Book Review

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Diagnosis and Therapy of Spinal Tumors
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The advent of state-of-the-art radiological imaging techniques together with the divergent opinions on the diagnosis and therapy of spinal tumors provides a formidable need for the compilation of creditable guidelines. Diagnosis and Therapy of Spinal Tumors is a profound assemblage of the knowledge of internationally renowned authorities on the subject. In providing a comprehensive overview of the prevalent diagnostic algorithms and therapeutic strategies, the volume suits the needs of radiologists, neurologists, neurosurgeons and orthopedic surgeons in the management of patients with such maladies.

The book’s eleven compact chapters are logically formatted to provide pinpointed citations within a broad-spectrum surveillance of the diagnosis and therapy of spinal tumors. The first chapter examines the clinical aspects of these tumors; the second reviews the indications and methods for spinal imaging. The next four chapters scrutinize different diagnostic imaging techniques. The next provides an interlude in its coverage of interventional procedures. The final four chapters are devoted to current concepts in surgical therapy, radiotherapy and in systemic therapy for the diverse tumor types. Each chapter is arranged for in-depth study, beginning with its own table of contents and concluding with detailed references. A three-page subject index affords quick and easy access to particular themes within the complex presentation. The text is infused with 141 figures in 280 separate clarifying illustrations, some of which are in color. The names and addresses of the contributors are provided at the end of the volume.

Diagnosis and Therapy of Spinal Tumors begins with a very basic exploration of cancer and its relationship to the spine, including the extreme significance of diagnosing spinal compression. A review of clinical signs and symptoms followed by an examination of tumor models carries the reader into the well-defined advantages of modern radiological techniques over older imaging options. The reader is then launched into the specific features of imaging studies. The benefits of state-of-the-art MR techniques for intradural extra- and intramedullary tumors are graphically substantiated. The stages of metastatic and degenerative processes are skillfully traced through the chapter concerning vertebral metastases. The discussion of primary extradural tumors is followed by a detailed study of interventional techniques for biopsy and embolization procedures. The import of surgical therapy is underscored for maintaining and restoring neurological function, fostering pain relief, and ensuring spinal stability. A multidisciplinary approach through the cooperative efforts of radiologist, radiotherapist, neurologist, oncologist and spinal surgeon is encouraged. The segment on the surgical treatment of intradural neoplasms highlights the distinct safety advantages offered by modern surgical aids. Concluding comments emphasize that outcome is highly determined by the severity of the preoperative neurological deficit(s); morbidity is strongly related to the spinal cord segment involved; success is attainable when the neurological deficit is reversible. The segment on radiation therapy reviews the function of this modality in the treatment of primary and secondary spinal tumors. A word of caution is given concerning radiation above the tolerance level of the vulnerable structures near the spine. Team decision making in correlating neurological deficits with radiographic abnormalities is strongly recommended. The final unit reviews the management of epidural cord compression through systemic therapies. Both standard and adjunct treatments are considered. Systemic therapy is suggested as a primary treatment for patients with minor, slowly progressive neurological deficits and for those with asymptomatic epidural metastases.

Diagnosis and Therapy of Spinal Tumors is a user-friendly volume of an intricate topic. It is remarkably appealing to both student and seasoned practitioner.

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