The Role of High Energy Electrons in the Treatment of Cancer

Frontiers of Radiation Therapy and Oncology

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Jerome M. Vaeth, San Francisco, Calif.

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To Thomas Karger

The 25th San Francisco Cancer Symposium and its proceedings are dedicated as a Festschrift to commemorate the 60th birthday of Thomas Karger.  
Thomas Karger is President of S. Karger AG, whose firm under his direction has published all of the past symposia proceedings as well as this, the twenty-fifth. Without Thomas Karger's foresight and imagination, this oncological series would not have been possible. We, in Oncology, are indebted to you, Thomas Karger.

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Foreword

‘The Role of High Energy Electrons in the Treatment of Cancer’ was the theme of our 25th Annual San Francisco Cancer Symposium. This was also the subject of our Second Annual San Francisco Cancer Symposium in 1966. At that time, the majority of electron generators — Betatrons and Linear Accelerators — were located in universities and large medical centers. Today, most of the electron generators are linear accelerators which are in wide distribution throughout the world; indeed there are over one thousand machines in the United States alone. These accelerators are located not only in medical centers, but in community hospitals and free-standing installations. It is imperative that those utilizing this new generation of accelerators be familiar with and knowledgeable about the physical, radiobiological and clinical aspects of high energy electrons. On February 10 and 11, 1990, some of the world’s acknowledged authorities in the radiobiology/physics and clinical applications of high energy electrons joined us in San Francisco for this Silver Jubilee. The presentations and discussions formed the basis of this 25th volume of Frontiers in Radiation Therapy and Oncology published by S. Karger AG. We hope this text will update the information available to us today and enable us in the future to better apply this exciting modality in the treatment of cancer.

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