Percutaneous Tumour Ablation

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Percutaneous thermal ablation methods are rapidly developing minimally invasive alternatives to open surgery. This 185-page multi-author book from the US outlines the mechanism of action and devices for radiofrequency, cyro, micro-wave and electroporation ablation.

Separate chapters deal with liver, lung, kidney, musculoskeletal and other esoteric organ ablation. Included with the book is a CD demonstrating lung tumour RF ablation, bone tumour RF ablation, kidney tumour cryoablation and liver tumour RF ablation.

The first chapter discusses physics and principles of the most frequently used percutaneous ablation technique of radiofrequency (RF) energy for tumour ablation. More than 100,000 procedures have been already been done worldwide. RF generators and the various electrodes by different manufacturers are illustrated and discussed.

Cryroablation aims to reduce the temperature of the target tissue to a lethal -20ºC. The chapter on cyroablation describes the several methods of achieving cooling, contrasting it with RF. The two FDA approved systems Endocare and Galil are described and illustrated.

Microwave ablation is a newer treatment modality. Technically, microwave heating is the modality of choice when larger lesions close to large vessels are ablated. For these three methods of ablation the procedures are explained with illustrated examples of clinical practice.

Separate chapters discuss ablation in the liver, lung, kidney and the musculo-skeletal system. The different techniques in each organ are outlined and illustrated, with patient selection preparation, complications and follow-up.

There is a section on the ablation of thyroid neoplastic tumours, which could be a contentious approach in the UK.

The CD is a useful supplement to the book. This concise, well-illustrated book will be of interest to established radiologists and radiologists in training, and is recommended for departmental libraries.