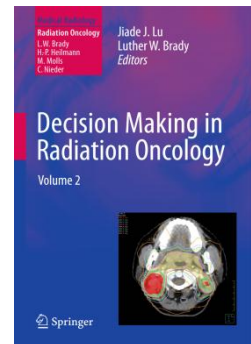


Decision Making in Radiation Oncology

Author(s): Lu/Brady
Publisher: Springer
Price: £242.50
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Reviewed by: Dr Paul Symonds, Consultant Oncologist, Leicester Royal Infirmary



This is the second volume of a two-volume series. The first volume dealt with palliative treatment, the treatment of head and neck, breast, tumours of the thorax and cancers of the gastrointestinal tract. The second deals with tumours of the genito-urinary system (spelled genital-urinary in the index), gynaecological cancer, lymphomas, tumours of the central nervous system, skin cancer and soft tissue sarcoma and paediatric tumours.

In total there are 22 chapters in this book. It is written essentially in note form with copious use of summary tables. The quality of the illustrations is very good. Each chapter gives a summary of trial-based data that influence the treatment of each tumour type.

With the exception of two authors from Singapore, all the authors come from North America. This is essentially a summary of North American practice. For instance, the indications for active surveillance for prostate cancer are much less liberal than those advised by NICE (National Institute of Clinical Excellence) in 2008. Each chapter, though, provides a succinct summary of the basis for radiotherapy in each tumour type. There is a brief mention of alternative treatments such as chemotherapy with references. The treatment descriptions deal with radiotherapy techniques only. This book would be ideal for a trainee who is carrying out revision prior to the final Part II FRCR examination.

A major criticism of this book is the price; it costs £242.50. I presume volume one is similarly priced, therefore it would cost a trainee almost £500 to buy the two volume series.

Its major competitor is the Handbook of Evidence Based Radiation Oncology (second edition) edited by Eric Hansen and Mack Roach (published in 2010). This is a single volume paperback book costing £49.99. The tables are not quite as clear as those in Lu and Brady's volumes and the

print is smaller and more concentrated. However, when one compares similar chapters the same material is included in both books.

If I had to advise a trainee (or a librarian) which book to buy I would advise the Hansen and Roach book over the Lu and Brady two volume series. This is a tenth of the price of the Lu and Brady book and the contents of the two books are very similar. Interestingly both books are published by Springer.

***This book can be purchased through the RAD Magazine Book Service at the discounted rate of £212.19. (Price correct as at January 18, 2012).
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