

Preface

Contemporary Issues and Management of Bladder Cancer



John P. Stein, MD, FACS
Guest Editor

The treatment of bladder cancer has evolved on various fronts over the past 20 to 30 years. Significant advances and discoveries in cellular biology and a better understanding of the molecular events and pathogenesis of this urologic malignancy have allowed clinical scientists to develop and study novel mechanisms in prevention and detection with innovative treatment plans for this disease. For this potentially morbid and lethal tumor, the improvements in the clinical and histopathologic understanding of the disease are equally important and clearly more practical for the practicing physician, because they allow for improvements in risk assessment and treatment decisions. In addition, advances in the medical and surgical treatment of both superficial and invasive bladder tumors have occurred, allowing for better oncologic outcomes while attempting to maintain certain quality of life issues. Lastly, I believe future treatment of all malignancies may evolve toward a more target-based strategy with the use of small molecules in specific fashion.

An attempt has been made to address these clinical concepts in bladder cancer. This particular issue of the *Urologic Clinics of North America* was strategically developed around what I believe are

important and contemporary clinical issues and dilemmas that confront the practicing urologist on a daily basis regarding bladder cancer. I hope the experience, expertise, and wisdom of the contributing authors will provide insight and elucidate some of these clinical predicaments. The goal is to provide the readership with a better understanding of the disease and to emphasize the various improvements in the overall treatment of the disease—ultimately so the patient with bladder cancer may benefit from better clinical and treatment decisions.

I am gratefully indebted to the authors who have contributed to this issue. It should be noted that the authors have been purposefully selected and include individuals who have dedicated themselves and their careers to the better understanding and treatment of patients who have bladder cancer. Their thoughtful expertise, insight, and experience with the disease have improved the care and clinical outcomes of those with the disease. Furthermore, I hope the overall contributions of these authors will provide the platform for younger and enthusiastic clinical scientists to continue to improve upon our better understanding and management of this tumor.

It has been a privilege to be the Guest Editor for this issue. I would like to thank all the families who have supported the authors (including my wife Randi and my children)—not only for their contribution to this endeavor, but also for their personal sacrifices that have been made to better understand and treat patients with bladder cancer. Finally, I would like to acknowledge Catherine Bewick, whose expertise and persistence made this project not only possible, but pleasant.

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