

Foreword

Contemporary Issues and Management of Bladder Cancer



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Consulting Editor

Cancer of the bladder is the second most common malignancy of the genitourinary tract. Recent statistics from the American Cancer Society indicate that approximately 274,000 individuals will be diagnosed with the disease worldwide, and less than half (108,000) will succumb to it. Although in the United States the majority of patients have transitional cell carcinoma, in other regions squamous cell malignancies predominate. Traditionally, the only management available to these patients was surgical removal of the malignancy and if invasive extirpation of the bladder is necessary with associated urinary diversion. Many advances over the past decade have permitted more focused therapy resulting not only in eradication of the tumor but also preservation of the urinary bladder and its function.

Dr. John Stein, Guest Editor of this issue of the *Urologic Clinics of North America*, has compiled a monograph consisting of important and controversial topics written by experts in the field and has appropriately addressed traditional concepts in treatment as well as new approaches

under development. Intravesical therapy and cystectomy and the role of chemotherapy and radiation therapy are reviewed, as are the important issue of quality of life and new surgical procedures that have been developed in neobladder construction that have benefitted this patient population.

All physicians who care for patients who have carcinoma of the bladder will find this issue of value. The topics presented are timely, the authors are well-recognized, experienced clinicians, and developments and innovation that have evolved are clearly presented.

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