

Preface

Tumor of the Hand and Upper Extremity:  
Principles of Diagnosis and Management II



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Like no other discipline within hand surgery, musculoskeletal tumor oncology requires constant vigilance and timely review of subject matter. During a career, the average hand surgeon will encounter one or two undiagnosed sarcomas. This requires the surgeon to always be prepared. During our careers, we have seen major advances in the treatment of musculoskeletal cancers. Refinement of chemotherapy and radiation therapy treatments as well as advances in reconstructive microsurgery have enabled limb salvage surgery to become commonplace. Amputation of the upper limb can now be reserved for only the most complicated situations. Today many patients with musculoskeletal sarcomas are experiencing 80% 5-year disease-free survival instead of the previous 20% disease-free survival, affording them hope. Fortunately, the vast majority of neoplasms of the hand are one of many benign diagnoses.

The subject of hand and upper extremity tumors will be covered in two issues. The first issue will focus on the principles of diagnosis and treatment. The second issue will highlight individual tumors. Biopsy techniques, imaging studies, and tumor

staging will be central to the topics covered in the first issue, followed by thorough discussions on the various limb salvage reconstructive strategies. The first issue will conclude with an overview of multimodal adjuvant therapies. The second issue will cover the salient features of the broad spectrum of musculoskeletal neoplasms. These lesions range from the common to the obscure, categorized based on similarities in histology and behavior.

I would like to thank the authors for their enthusiasm and energy in seeing this project to completion. Also, I would like to thank my coeditors Edward Athanasian, MD, and Peter Jebson, MD, for their support, expertise, and tireless efforts in making this project a reality. Darlene Gunsolus deserves special recognition for her incredible efforts in manuscript preparation. Many thanks to Debora Dellapena and Barton Dudlick from Elsevier for their support and invaluable guidance in creating these two issues. Finally, Dr. Athanasian, Dr. Jebson, and I owe our families a special debt of gratitude for affording us the many hours spent away from them during the publication of this effort.

On behalf of Dr. Athanasian and Dr. Jebson, we hope you find these issues of the *Hand Clinics* to be a useful resource.

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