

best outcome for patients who have most types of primary or secondary liver cancers.

*Malignant Liver Tumors* contains a moderate number of high-quality black-and-white figures. These include many reproductions of radiologic images, pathological specimens, and line drawings of surgical techniques, with the occasional flowchart, bar graph, and cartoon of pathophysiological processes. The text is very readable, with large subheadings on almost every page. Every chapter is fully referenced, and many also include an annotated list of selected readings.

The book has five major sections — “Epidemiology, Diagnosis, and Algorithms for Treatment,” “Systemic and Regional Therapies,” “Tumor Ablation,” “Emerging Therapies,” and “Special Tumors and Populations and Special Considerations.” Most of the subjects can logically be assigned to one of these sections, but, interestingly, the chapters on resection and transplantation are in the section on tumor ablation, side by side with the latest information on thermal ablation, ethanol injection, and cryoablation. The section on emerging therapies offers an update on the status of the “dream list” of treatments, including vaccine-based, viral-based, and antibody treatment and the induction of apoptosis. The chapter on antiangiogenic agents is particularly useful, because this approach appears promising for hepatocellular carcinoma. This section also contains a comprehensive chapter on alternative and complementary treatments, which makes interesting reading, although little of the information presented is specific to the treatment of liver cancer. Some of the special considerations dealt with include liver tumors in children and pregnant women and variations in the pathogenesis and presentation of liver tumors in different parts of the world, including Asia, Africa, and South America — with a chapter given to each of these regions.

There is considerable overlap among a number of the chapters, which may represent a planned redundancy or incomplete editing. For example, radio-frequency ablation is given two dedicated chapters and is mentioned in several others. The chapter on therapy for liver tumors in patients with cirrhosis overlaps extensively with chapters on resection and transplantation, among others. Some aspects of liver cancer could have been dealt with in more detail, including staging and prognostication and the algorithms for deciding which treatment should be applied to which patient. If I were a physician who was consulting this book for advice on how to treat

my patient, I would be impressed by how many treatment options my patient had, but I would have no idea how to pick the best one.

In summary, this book is a comprehensive reference on the diagnosis and management of primary and secondary malignant tumors of the liver, which will be valuable to hepatologists, oncologists, and others involved in diagnosing and treating liver cancer and an essential guide for surgical oncologists, liver surgeons, and transplantation surgeons.

Adrian M. Di Bisceglie, M.D.

Saint Louis University  
St. Louis, MO 63110

*Book Reviews Copyright © 2004 Massachusetts Medical Society.*

### CORRECTION

Valsartan, Captopril, or Both in Myocardial Infarction Complicated by Heart Failure, Left Ventricular Dysfunction, or Both (November 13, 2003;349:1893-906). On page 1896, in Table 1, the entry “Left ventricular ejection fraction” should not have been followed by a footnote symbol (‡), as printed.

### NOTICES

Notices submitted for publication should contain a mailing address and telephone number of a contact person or department. We regret that we are unable to publish all notices received. Notices also appear on the Journal’s Web site ([www.nejm.org/meetings](http://www.nejm.org/meetings)). The listings can be viewed in their entirety or searched by location, month, or key word.

#### AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

The following courses will be offered: “Basic Principles of Anatomy and Terminology for Neurosurgery Office Staff” (New Orleans, Jan. 29; Scottsdale, Ariz., Feb. 29); “Joint Meeting of the AANS/CNS Section on Cerebrovascular Surgery and the American Society of Interventional and Therapeutic Neuroradiology” (San Diego, Calif., Feb. 1–4); “AANS/CNS Section on Disorders of the Spine and Peripheral Nerves” (San Diego, Calif., March 17–20); “Advanced Managing Coding and Reimbursement Challenges in Neurosurgery: 2004” (Atlanta, March 19 and 20); “Beyond Residency: The Real World” (Orlando, Fla., May 1); “American Association of Neurological Surgeons Annual Meeting” (Orlando, Fla., May 1–6; New Orleans, April 16–21, 2005); “Neurosurgery Review by Case Management: Oral Board Preparation” (New Orleans, May 16–18; Houston, Nov. 7–9); and “Neurosurgical Practice Management: Improving the Financial Health of Your Practice” (Boston, May 23; Chicago, Aug. 29).

Contact American Association of Neurological Surgeons, 5550 Meadowbrook Dr., Rolling Meadows, IL 60008; or call (847) 378-0500; or fax (847) 378-0600; or see <http://www.aans.org> or <http://www.neurosurgery.org>; or e-mail [epm@aans.org](mailto:epm@aans.org) or [aansam@aans.org](mailto:aansam@aans.org).