

TEXTBOOK OF BONE METASTASES

Edited by Claude Jasmin, Robert E. Coleman, Lawrence R. Coia, Rodolfo Capanna, and Gérard Saillant. 568 pp., illustrated. Chichester, England, John Wiley & Sons, 2005. \$350. ISBN 0-471-87742-5.

BONE METASTASIS IS AN IMPORTANT CLINICAL problem affecting approximately 350,000 people in the United States. After tumors have metastasized to bone, the cancer becomes incurable. In clinical trials in the past, bone metastases were not considered independently, but they have become an important focus of research now that new therapies that are effective in decreasing the incidence of skeletal complications are available. *Textbook of Bone Metastases* is a comprehensive bench-to-bedside reference book that also provides a very good review of the basic science underpinning the metastatic process.

The section on clinical features and assessment is important in a book for specialists in internal medicine and oncology. Many chapters contain redundant material, which reflects the book's contributions from multiple authors but also frees the reader of a chapter from being required to read other chapters for the necessary background information.

There is a heavy emphasis on osteolytic metastasis throughout the book, and the discussion of osteoblastic metastases is somewhat out of date. In the chapters on imaging methods, only techniques that are available in Europe and the United Kingdom are reviewed, and techniques such as positron-emission tomography with computed tomography, which are available in the United States, are not mentioned. The chapter on immunotherapy has questionable relevance to the treatment of bone metastasis; it contains no discussion of this subject, except in the conclusions.

The chapters on the use of bisphosphonates to treat bone metastasis and the mechanisms of action of these drugs are very good and probably should precede the chapter on osteoclast inhibitors. The chapter on cost implications of bisphosphonate therapy is an important one, since it is still unclear with which bisphosphonates, when, or for how long patients should be treated. The chapter on the psychosocial aspects of metastasis and bone metastasis discusses a subject that is frequently overlooked in most review books and is well done.

The final section of the book is a mini-textbook on oncology, focused on breast cancer, prostate cancer, multiple myeloma, and malignant non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, as well as on other tumors that metastasize to bone. This information could probably have been included in previous chapters that discuss these cancers and bone metastasis. This section is good, however, for medical students or orthopedists who want more information on these types of cancers in a unified section. Overall, this textbook is comprehensive and will be a useful reference for medical students, oncologists, orthopedists, and general practitioners alike.

G. David Roodman, M.D., Ph.D.

University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
roodmangd@upmc.edu

Book Reviews Copyright © 2005 Massachusetts Medical Society.

CORRECTIONS

Abatacept for Rheumatoid Arthritis Refractory to Tumor Necrosis Factor α Inhibition (September 15, 2005;353:1114-23). On page 1121, in Figure 3B, the key was incorrectly labeled. The light blue bars represent abatacept, and the dark blue bars placebo. We regret the error.

Severe Sepsis and Therapy with Activated Protein C (September 29, 2005;353:1398-1400). On page 1398, in the right-hand column, the P value in line 15 of the first full paragraph should have read "P=0.06," rather than "P=0.006," 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). The listings can be viewed in their entirety or searched by location, month, or key word.

ALIGNED MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATES

The following conferences will be held: "NewEra Cardiac Care 9: Innovation and Technology" (Newport Beach, Calif., Jan. 6-8); "Medicine Meets Virtual Reality 14 — Accelerating Change in Healthcare: Next Medical Toolkit" (Long Beach, Calif., Jan. 24-27); and "CREF 26 — The San Diego Cardiothoracic Surgery Symposium: Science and Techniques of Perfusion" (San Diego, Calif., Feb. 16-19).

Contact Aligned Management Associates, 793-A Foothill Blvd., PMB #119, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405; or call (805) 534-0300; or fax (805) 534-9030; or e-mail info2006@amainc.com; or see <http://www.eyeanesthesia.org>, http://www.amainc.com/cardiac_care.html, http://www.nextmed.com/mmvr_virtual_reality.html, or http://www.amainc.com/cref_cardiothoracic.html, respectively.