

Foreword by Tero T. Kivelä

Finger's Essential Ophthalmic Oncology is true to its name in more than one way. First, it covers the most important entities in the field that the comprehensive ophthalmologist, retinal specialist, pediatric ophthalmologist, oculoplastic surgeon, and ocular oncologist each is likely to see in their respective practices. Second, it makes essential reading to anyone who wishes to get a contemporary overview of the ways and means we currently manage not only the ocular tumor but also the patient whose eye is affected, as well as how this is best accomplished through collaboration between specialists in all related fields of medicine.

The Editor, Dr. Paul Finger, is known both for thinking outside of the box, which has led to a handful of refined and novel techniques in diagnosing and managing extraocular and intraocular tumors, and for nurturing and encouraging international collaboration in the field of ocular oncology, which he has supported through The Eye Cancer Foundation.

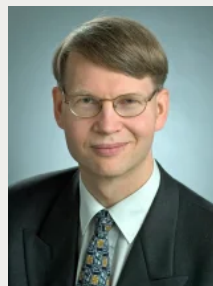
Both aspects feature prominently in this new textbook. The tricks of the trade worth noting include, but are not restricted to, using a vitreous cutter to take an orbital biopsy in lieu of a traditional core needle, and an improved design that allows more deeply slotted radioactive plaques to be confidently used in managing uveal tumors that extend all around the optic disk. The other authors provide further tips. International collaboration shows both in the spread of the authorship across the 45 chapters and in stressing the value of a universal staging system and tumor registry collaboration to collect large evidence-based collaborative data sets from which results can be extrapolated to benefit both the affluent and the less affluent health care systems.

Whenever possible this book recommends cancer staging according to the American Joint Committee on Cancer's (AJCC) Tumor, Node, Metastasis classification, which is propagated internationally by the International Union Against Cancer (UICC). Beginning with the 7th Edition, Dr. Finger has been the Chair of its Ophthalmic Oncology Task Force. Through his guidance the TNM staging system for eye tumors has been internationally edited based on best evidence. A key aspect of TNM is that it is continuously developed when new evidence accumulates. The

authors of several chapters are members of the international TNM collaboration.

The reader will notice that another consistent feature running through this textbook are mind-maps, which in a concise and visual way summarize the essential content of most chapters. The maps should be particularly valuable to the reader who may have a diagnostic or therapeutic problem at hand. They likely will benefit from glancing first at the mind-map to orient themselves and can then study the text to get the details relevant to their current question. These mind-maps should also be a great help to a newcomer in the field who wishes to quickly orient themselves as well as to students who might need to prepare a case presentation or pass a subspecialty exam.

Finally, this textbook deals more visibly and enthusiastically than previous ones with several topics related to the management of a quality ocular oncology service, including community and holistic aspects of patient care, and extending to outreach opportunities. This is an area of growing importance in the modern world and, when internalized, will help the ocular oncologist to really become the salt of the earth for their future patients.



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