

## Genitourinary Oncology: The Continuous Evolution of Multimodality Treatments

Malignancies comprising the prostate, bladder, kidney, and testicle represent 42% of all cancers diagnosed in men in the United States. Prostate cancer alone accounts for the majority of cancers (33%) and is the second most common cause of cancer death in men. (10%).<sup>1</sup>

Specialists are needed to address the multidimensional aspects of these cancers. Treatments specialties (genitourinary oncologic surgery, medical oncology, and radiation oncology) and diagnostic specialties (pathology and radiology) work closely together to provide the best management available to date. This issue of *Cancer Control* focuses on these multidimensional aspects of genitourinary malignancies.

In the first article, Marla Hersh, MD, and colleagues discuss the newer technologies in imaging for the diagnosis and staging of prostate cancer. Advances in imaging technology make it possible to better determine cancer extent in the majority of patients with prostate cancer so that adequate treatment can be provided.

Javier Torres-Roca, MD, then reviews the evolution and outcomes with bladder preservation in the management of invasive bladder cancer. A combination of concomitant radiation therapy and systemic chemotherapy preceded by as complete a transurethral resection of the bladder tumor as possible yields similar cancer control outcomes as cystectomy in carefully selected patients.

Until recently, systemic chemotherapy was considered ineffective in the management of prostate cancer. Michael Diaz, MD, and Stephen Patterson, MD, discuss the newer chemotherapeutic approaches for more effective management of patients with metastatic prostate cancer in whom primary or secondary hormonal treatments have failed.

The pathology of testicular cancers is complex, with tumors presenting in several histologic types. Knowledge of these various types is critical to the physician managing these tumors since therapeutic options are dictated by the histology of the primary tumor. Isabell Sesterhenn, MD, and Charles Davis, Jr, MD, review the histology of testicular tumors and include representative slides of these tumors.

One of the barriers to effective cancer management is the limited access of African American men to screening and early detection progress. V. Diane Woods, DrPH(c), and coauthors studied the behavior of African American men

and identified elements affecting screening for prostate cancer. They demonstrate that this ethnic group requires targeted efforts to help in their access to early detection.

Our most recent issue of *Cancer Control* that focused on genitourinary cancer was published in November/December 1999. Since then, the results of ongoing research and the dedicated efforts of many specialists have helped to develop a clearer understanding of the malignancies of this disease. The articles included in this issue highlight the valuable contributions of some of these specialists who are dedicated to the treatment of genitourinary malignancies. A multidisciplinary approach to these malignancies — and *all* cancers — should be the standard in the management of patients with cancer.

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### Reference

1. Jemal A, Tiwari R, Murray T. Cancer statistics, 2004. *CA Cancer J Clin.* 2004;54:8-29.