

the nerve. It can be extrapolated that the maxillary division of the trigeminal nerve would have been surrounded by inflamed hypoxic tissues as soon as it emerged from the foramen rotundum into the affected pterygopalatine fossa.

Treatment primarily depends upon rapid and extensive surgical debridement with supportive therapy and appropriate antibiotics.⁵ Use of other treatments, including hyperbaric oxygen,¹ and also maggot therapy,⁶ have been described with some success, but as is frequently the case with rare conditions such as this, randomized control trials are lacking.

Conclusion

Necrotizing fasciitis is a serious rare condition, which can arise as a complication of odontogenic infection and which requires prompt recognition and early surgical intervention.

References

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BookReview

Oral Cancer; Diagnosis, Management and Rehabilitation.

John W. Werning, ed. Stuttgart, New York: Thieme Publishing Group, 2007 (354pp. h/b, Euros(D) 109.95). ISBN 978-3-13-135811-0.

Oral cancer is a worldwide problem but usually shares the literary stage with other head and neck cancers. This book, dealing only with oral cancer, is a hard-backed book of 338 pages of text and 14 of concise index. The author and the vast majority of the contributory authors are from North America, many from renowned and well respected units. Consisting of 31 chapters, the book deals in details with all forms of oral cancer in a logical and well designed structure.

The early chapters deal with epidemiology, premalignant issues and evaluation of the disease. These chapters are well written but are hampered by multi-authorship, as repeat definitions, eg leukoplakia, appear and padding out of the text with reference to head and neck cancer takes the shine off very readable and contemporary writing.

Chapter 4 gives a comprehensive description of the anatomy of the area, although labelling mistakes will keep the vigilant reader occupied, and chapter 5 describes imaging of tumours. The topic reflects the access to PET scanning in North America but little is written about USS with FNA and more space was needed to emphasize the importance of sensitivity of these different imaging modalities. Standard

staging data and a good guide to the pre-treatment dental issues follows.

The book then describes the treatment of cancers at individual oral sites. Each is described by authors whose writing clearly indicates great experience and is full of useful surgical tips which are normally the remit of on-the-job learning. Each chapter concludes with a very in depth discussion about the non-surgical therapeutic or adjunctive treatments, such as radiotherapy and, where appropriate, chemotherapy, perhaps more reflective of practices in North America.

The chapters on reconstruction are comprehensive with informative discussion and are well referenced. However, the reliance on sketches and black and white photographs significantly detracts from their impact.

The book comes to a conclusion with yet more information on radiotherapy and chemotherapy, calling into question the need to repeat this. Oral rehabilitation is well described as is the issue of osteoradionecrosis, but a chapter on TMJ pain seems at odds with the surrounding information.

The commitment to cancer therapy in North America is reflected in the final chapters on chemoprevention and the enthusiasm with which the medical community embraces clinical trials, something from which the UK could learn. The novel therapeutic agents described reflect a mature translation research ideology, although surprisingly little is discussed on stem cell fuelled field changes, although reference is made to the original work from Slaughter.

In the future, it is hoped that this type of work will appear alongside the actual cancer treatments and not occupy the embers of such texts.

This is a book which, because of its comprehensive reference base and well written treatment chapters, would serve most OMFS and Head and Neck Trainees in the UK. The poor quality illustrations and the leaning towards North American therapeutic approaches make it difficult to recommend as a standard text. The undergraduate establishments would benefit from its use as a reference and thus all dental school and postgraduate units would be advised to purchase a copy.

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