Editorial

K. Harish

Received: 5 March 2011 / Accepted: 9 March 2011 / Published online: 2 April 2011
© Indian Association of Surgical Oncology 2011

Cancer of the breast is one of the leading cancers in all metros. Concept of axillary dissection has changed from therapeutic value to prognostication. On the conservative front, sentinel node biopsy is advocated to avoid the complications of axillary dissection. But in stark contrast to the western world, palpable axillary nodes and metastatic axillary nodes are much more frequent in India. In that context there are two articles addressing the issue of nodal disease as a marker for systemic dissemination and overall survival. Apart from this another article addresses the issue

of pre surgical localization which is relevant in urban areas where screening detected cancers are increasing.

One of the main unresolved issues is the issue of seroma after mastectomy and axillary dissection. The management of seroma has evolved from no drain, tube drains, and corrugated drains to the present usage of suction drains. No doubt, suction drains apparently score over other forms of drainage. But some questions like whether the usage of suction drain would result in lymphatic channels being kept open for longer periods of time remain unanswered. This issue of seroma is addressed in a review article in this issue.

A new section 'tutorials in oncology' would probably meet the unmet demands of a student of surgery and surgical oncology. From the editorial board we hope to provide a concise current understanding of an important area of oncology. We hope this would be useful for the student and a busy oncologist. Suggestions and more importantly good contributions are welcome in this section. Please check with the editor in chief or the editorial manager on topics before submission. I would specially thank the reviewers for enhancing the value of each manuscript by their inputs.

You will find a special tribute in this issue to a man who dedicated his entire life for the care of cancer patients. This man Late Dr S Krishnamurthy, a man of principles, built one of the finest cancer centres in India and established superspecialty training 'MCh' in surgical oncology for the first time in India. I dedicate this issue to him.

K. Harish
Department of Surgical Oncology, M S Ramaiah Curie Centre
of Oncology, M S Ramaiah Medical College,
Gokula, Bangalore 560054, India

K. Harish (✉)
2866, 13th Main 'E' Block,
Subramanyanagar, Bangalore 560010, India
e-mail: drkhari@yahoo.com

Dr K Harish, *MS, MCh, FAIS, FICS*
Associate Editor & Editorial Manager
Indian Journal of Surgical Oncology