
Orofacial Supportive Care in Cancer

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Editor

Orofacial Supportive Care in Cancer

A Contemporary Oral Oncology
Perspective

 Springer

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*I dedicate this book to my grandfather,
Dr (Capt.) K N Pillai and my father,
Dr N G Nair for teaching me,
when I was a boy,
the true meaning of empathy in patient care.*

Preface

Cancer has become a global term signifying apprehension, a cause of superfluous concern and a significant diagnosis. As a disease, it is distressing us, affecting someone who is close to our hearts, a friend or a stranger. Cancer diagnosis makes an individual a (cancer) survivor due to the nature and course of the disease process. Supportive care becomes a critical facet in their lives whether during active treatment, remission or palliation.

This book, first of its kind as far as I am aware, intended to deliver contemporary updated knowledge and information in orofacial supportive care of cancer patients. This book is a companion for clinicians, nursing fraternity, allied health professionals, trainees in haematology, oncology, radiation oncology, oral medicine and oral oncology.

I have made a conscious effort with the help of my colleagues—contributing authors—in making this book an easy read. When preparing the topics, I have taken into consideration every aspect of cancer care including the hectic nature of dedicated professionals at a cancer centre. The contributing authors are experts in their respective fields and leaders with a wealth of knowledge and experience in cancer care and many of them are international authorities in clinical consensus and guideline development in supportive care in cancer.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to all of the contributing authors for their excellent contributions and valuable time dedicated towards creating this book. I also extend my thanks to all at Springer, especially Alison Wolf for initially contacting me regarding this book, Beauty Christobel Gunasekaran and the editors for their patience and support.

I hope you will enjoy this book as I did creating it. This unique book will help you understand the full practice of oral oncology in supportive care in cancer thus abetting to provide better cancer care.

Gold Coast, QLD, Australia

Raj Nair

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Editors and Contributors

About the Editor



Raj Nair is an internationally known academic and clinician in Oral Medicine and Oral Oncology. He was Deputy Head of School (Research) and Higher Degree Research (HDR) Convenor and is the Discipline Head of Oral Medicine, Oral Pathology and Human Diseases at Griffith University, Australia. He is Senior Oral Oncology Consultant, Haematology and Oncology (Cancer Services), Gold Coast University Hospital (GCUH), Queensland Health, Gold Coast, Australia. He is a member of the Menzies Health Institute Queensland with over 100 publications, books and book chapter contributions. He holds honorary faculty position at the University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia.

He obtained his PhD in Oral Medicine and Microbiology from the University of Hong Kong in 1996. He received his oral medicine/oncology clinical training as a fellow at Harvard and affiliated hospitals, USA and the University of London, England, UK and recipient of research scholarship from Centre for Blood Disorders, Harvard Medical School. He was awarded membership in the special stream of Oral Medicine by the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons (RACDS) in 2008.

His clinical training and interests are in the field of oral medicine, oral oncology, management of orofacial diseases, orofacial manifestations in patients with medically complex diseases, HIV disease and orofacial supportive care in cancer therapy and haematopoietic stem cell transplantation. Raj has established and maintains out-patient oral medicine practices providing much needed care for complex orofacial diseases, biopsy service and cancer screen for patients from northern New South Wales and southern Queensland. He provides out-patient and in-patient care to cancer patients at the GCUH as senior oral oncology consultant.

His current research projects include but not limited to (1) biomarkers for cancers using precision oncology techniques and microbiome studies; (2) photomedicine in cancer therapy-induced complications; and (3) oral mucositis and other complications amongst cancer patients. He maintains external research collaborations with universities in the USA and Europe. He has presented a number of original research papers at international conferences and has given invited lectures worldwide since 1994.

Raj is the convenor of courses in the discipline of oral medicine, oral pathology and human diseases (internal medicine) which are designed and implemented by Raj. He contributes to education of specialist trainees and nurses at the GCUH and lectures at School of Pharmacy, Griffith University.

Raj holds membership in both professional and research bodies including the International Association for Craniofacial Research (IADR since 1994), the American Academy of Oral Medicine (since 1998), the International Society of Oral Oncology (ISOO), Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer (MASCC since 1999) and Harvard Club of Australia.

He has been an invited consultant and member of international consensus bodies such as World Workshop in Oral Medicine, World Workshop in Oral Health and Diseases in AIDS and Oral Mucositis Group of MASCC/ISOO. He is a Founding Member of the Oral Medicine Academy of Australasia (OMAA).

His senior international leadership positions include (1) Immediate-Past President, Oral Medicine/Pathology Group of international peak research body, IADR; formerly Chair of Membership Recruitment Committee, and Fellowship Committee and currently member of Publication Committee of the IADR, (2) Past Vice President, Editor and Director Board Member of the ISOO (re-elected three terms) and (3) founding Board Member of International Group in Light in Oncology-Barcelona (iGLOB). He was the first Australian-Indian in the fifty years history of RACDS to serve as an elected Director/Councillor (2012–2014).

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