
Atlas of Extreme Facial Cancer

Ian Burton • Michael F. Klaassen
Editors

Atlas of Extreme Facial Cancer

Challenges and Solutions

 Springer

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This atlas is dedicated to all our patients who have endured facial cancer and trusted us to find them a solution.

Foreword

The challenge of healthcare delivery in the twenty-first century is rapidly increasing in a world of widening disparities between the haves and the have nots. Steadily rising costs of modern medicine across all communities in the face of the multipronged attacks of financial constraints, restricted access to treatment, against a background of the much larger issues of climate change and its global effects means we are likely to see across the board more advanced disease presenting later. The unprecedented complication of the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact of health service delivery only serves to exacerbate this risk.

Advanced head and neck skin tumours present a major burden to both the individual afflicted and their family as well as the medical professionals called on to manage these complex cases. By dint of these tumours frequently extending across anatomical subregions, their management often requires complex interactions between the conventional silos of modern medical and surgical practice.

This atlas superbly brings together all the elements of the multidisciplinary team necessary to assess and treat those presenting with extreme facial cancer. Recognizing that total management does not begin and end with medical and surgical specialists, this text broadens the discussion to include the role of the speech and swallowing therapists, dental and maxillofacial rehabilitation, as well as the epidemiology and biology of these most extreme cases.

Drawing together expertise across generations and from a number of continents the authors are to be congratulated for having successfully identified pathways available in most health systems to treat, reconstruct and where necessary palliate patients with extreme facial tumours.

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Preface

Some years ago I realized there were many excellent books published about the common-or-garden facial cancers that we encounter in everyday clinical practice. There seemed to be an absence of a book which focussed on the extreme cases, which, although rare, challenge the patient, their families and the various clinical teams trying to manage them. Over 30 years I had worked as a member of various head and neck cancer teams in the UK, Australia and New Zealand documenting a significant number of extreme facial cancer cases. By definition these are cases which require complex surgery to resect and reconstruct the problem, need adjuvant oncological therapies and ultimately may be life-threatening. The recorded cases, some of which had prolonged follow-up, provided an initial database on which to create an Atlas, illustrating the fundamental principles of plastic surgery developed by Gillies and others over a hundred years ago. Sir Harold Gillies (1882–1960) also emphasized the critical importance of the Team Concept in Cancer Surgery. Therefore I set about inviting various team members that I had either worked with or got to know through mutual interests in the field of head and neck cancer and encouraged them to contribute chapters to the Atlas.

This has been a challenge in itself—cajoling busy professionals to devote precious time to complete their chapters but we succeeded. A broad range of specialists from oncological to reconstructive surgeons, anaesthetists, radiologists, pathologists, speech and swallowing therapists, anatomists, scientists and epidemiologists, all familiar with the challenges of facial cancer, have come together in one multidisciplinary book. My appreciation of the different but key roles that my colleagues continue to make to this field of modern medicine has been an inspiration. We have been purposefully inclusive and also keen to consider innovation and future concepts such as the role of cancer stem cells, digital technology for prosthetic rehabilitation and modern morphing technologies.

With authors from around the world including Great Britain, China, South America, Australia and New Zealand this Atlas is truly an international effort, supported by the expert professionalism of the Springer Publishing Company. Facial cancer will continue to be a clinical challenge but the opportunities for either cure or palliation are many and it is important for all of us to highlight and share them. I am grateful to my co-editors, colleague and friend Dr. Ian Burton, FRACS, for his eagle eye and grasp of the English language.

Auckland, New Zealand
Gisborne, New Zealand

Michael F. Klaassen
Ian Burton

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