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## II. TREATMENT

Oral Oncology brings the subject of neoplasia, its diagnosis, and management up to date and presents in a very inclusive manner the state-of-the-art as it is practiced today. The functions of the oral cavity include the intake of food and fluid, mastication and transport of these substances to the pharynx, and, in addition to these physiological functions, participates in sound articulation and breathing and is both directly and indirectly associated with the esthetics of the mid- and lower-third of the face. This combination of factors adds a special importance to this region that demands specific understanding and management. Any treatment directed against benign or malignant neoplasia in this area must detail the nuances of options and complications of an ever-changing variety of surgical techniques, great advances in radiotherapy, and the introduction of chemotherapeutic agents. This treatment program must be coordinated to comply with the gravity of the tumor, either as a single therapeutic force or in combination.

There has been an increase in the recognition of the value of reconstruction of the large defects that are natural consequences of aggressive treatment in this area of a malignant neoplasm. In addition to the technique of rehabilitative surgery, it is necessary to include the use of certain prosthetic devices.

Chapter 5's discussion of treatment has been handled admirably by Professor Snow, who reviews surgical treatment. Professor Cummings elucidates the radiotherapeutic aspects, and Professors Pitman and Bertino cover the chemotherapeutic advances. Professor Tiwari reviews the reconstructive aspects, and Professor Engels covers the prosthetic rehabilitation and dental care. This interdisciplinary team of authors has created a superb collection of papers that describe the best possible chances not only for patient survival, but also for a meaningful life.

The detail of the writing is so complete and complemented by extensive bibliographies in such a way that the book not only has immediate value to specialists in this field, but also can be used profitably by physicians in training as a textbook. No therapeutic modality is omitted, yet proper emphasis is placed on the most essential and most effective types of procedures under accurate classification and criteria. The reconstructive procedures described incorporate both the well-tested and tried standard methods, as well as the new myocutaneous and microvascular techniques.

The value of the oral prosthesis is appreciated most by the individuals who are best rehabilitated in this manner. There are certain situations in radical head and neck surgery where a prosthesis rehabilitates the patient better than any series of protracted and complicated surgical endeavors. This recognition is important in the management of these problems.

JOHN CONLEY