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Franco Muggia • Alessandro D. Santin  
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Editors

# Uterine Cancer

Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment

Second Edition

 Springer

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Current Clinical Oncology  
ISBN 978-3-319-47267-6      ISBN 978-3-319-47269-0 (eBook)  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-47269-0>

Library of Congress Control Number: 2018953885

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The registered company address is: Gewerbestrasse 11, 6330 Cham, Switzerland

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## Preface to the Second Edition

For this second edition, *Uterine Cancer: Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment* is represented by an additional editor, Alessandro Santin, joining Esther Oliva and me as editors. The first edition was inspired by the recognition that a book focusing on uterine cancer was timely: emergent sophistication in diagnosis and staging began having an increasing impact on clinical decision-making, particularly in the systematic application of new treatment modalities beginning with full integration of chemotherapy in the oncologists' armamentarium. Amalgamating epidemiology, diagnosis, and staging with the evolving applications of treatments beyond surgery promised to become a valuable reference among oncologists. Six years later, the rationale for a book on *Uterine Cancer* has become even stronger as oncologists grapple daily with the application of molecular diagnostic tools to refine applying diagnostic tools and treatments upon presentation. Important lifestyle and genetic factors in the causation of uterine malignancies have come to light. We also foresee that beyond the enhanced awareness on this somewhat neglected area of therapeutics, clinicians will welcome the dawn of interest on preventive measures. Hopefully, this will enhance awareness that these areas have rarely been a focus for drug development and the need for "borrowing" results from other gynecologic cancer in guiding the treatment of individual patients. Although the chapters appear with nearly the same titles of the first edition, this last message resonates throughout this second edition and seeks to accelerate the integration of "targeted therapies" and related concepts in the management of women at risk of or who have already manifested uterine cancer.

The current volume, therefore, have widely revised chapters with the theme of better tailoring the treatment to our emerging knowledge of cancer biology. As a result, premalignant lesions are dealt with by medical methods, and properly staged low-grade cancers can be treated by surgery alone. Both chemotherapy and radiation are being tailored for the treatment of stage I, properly staged patients when adverse prognostic areas are identified. Preliminary data justify these approaches but are not a substitute for clinical trials.

With my co-editors, we hope that this second edition will speed up the development of trials to provide future answers in the prevention and treatment of uterine cancers.

New York, NY, USA  
New Haven, CT, USA  
Boston, MA, USA

Franco Muggia  
Alessandro D. Santin  
Esther Oliva

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## Preface to the First Edition

For the editors, the task of writing a preface is most satisfying. It represents the completion of the book and a moment of reflection on whether the whole is more than the sum of all the parts. And also, one must reflect on how this book is likely to be utilized in this era of rapid communications.

The editors first met in May 2003 at a stimulating Italian symposium on endometrial cancer (organizers Drs. Luigi Frigerio, Roberto Grassi, and Andrea Lissoni, with participation of the deans of Italian Gynecologic Oncology, Ugo Bianchi and Constantino Mangioni) that took place at Bergamo and Caravaggio. The impressive gains in biology and clinical trials were further discussed by the two editors and others that are coauthors in this venture on this side of the Atlantic at a 2004 Educational Session at the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO). The pace of progress in various aspects of the management of uterine cancer was noteworthy, not only was tumor biology fueling novel hypotheses such as questioning the mesenchymal origin of carcinosarcomas, but knowledge of molecular pathways was beginning to be applied as prognostic and as predictive factors portending benefit from systemic therapies. Surgical staging and sensitive imaging provided the underpinning for refining our treatment algorithms. Finally, a role for chemotherapy had finally become established, principally through phase III studies comparing chemotherapy to radiation in mostly locally advanced stages III and IV that had undergone resection.

Inevitably, this task brought back thoughts of prior efforts going into books covering endometrial cancer. In 1987, an international symposium resulted in the publication of a multiauthored book. To this day, it remains a valuable reference to the advent of pharmacology and hormone receptor work in the evaluation of hormonal therapy relevant to endometrial cancer. However, in the intervening 20 years biomedical science has moved far beyond focusing systemic therapy on the first of “targeted therapies.” We are indebted to all the contributors, mostly selected on firsthand knowledge of their expertise and often based on interactions within our institutions or in cooperative groups and scientific societies. We know we added some additional work to their already busy daily lives, but hope they will be pleased with the results.

Covering the subject in a comprehensive manner is a challenge for the editors. On the one hand, one needs to discourage encyclopedic reviews in order to focus on what is new – the prime motivation for highlighting various aspects of uterine cancer. On the other hand, if one of the functions will be to become a handy reference on which to build the near future of therapeutics, all aspects of the foundations as well as of advancing science need to be included. In finally surveying the components that make up this new venture, we are hopeful that we have come close to our goals to emphasize new aspects while providing useful reference material.

January 2, 2009

Franco Muggia  
Esther Oliva

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