

Infectious Complications of Cancer

Cancer Treatment and Research

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Preface

In spite of major developments in our therapeutic armementarium for the treatment of infections, the morbidity and mortality of these complications remains very high in patients with compromised defenses. Cancer and its treatment represent a major predisposing condition to various infections. These adverse events are still with us, in spite of much progress in the therapy of infectious diseases, because cancer therapy is becoming more aggressive, further lowering the capacity of the host to cope with infections. Moreover, pathogens adapt quite effectively to our drugs at a pace that might overcome the ability of the industry to provide new active agents. Finally, new pathogens appear as a consequence of both selection and severe immunosuppression.

Because infection is so common in cancer patients, its diagnosis and management represent a daily challenge to all oncologists. To help the practicing physician master this broad and changing area of medicine, a continuing educational effort is mandatory. It is the goal of this book to provide a comprehensive review of the most crucial and challenging aspects of infectious complications in cancer patients.

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