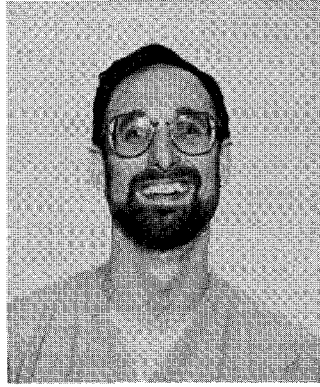


PREFACE



This issue of *Radiologic Clinics of North America* is designed to familiarize and update the general radiologist with guidelines on how to interpret head and neck examinations. In my instructions to the contributors to this issue, I asked them to emphasize the clinical issues associated with lesions rather than specific imaging characteristics. As head and neck radiologists, we are relatively infrequently asked "What is this?" Instead, most of the clinical questions deal with a lesion's resectability, operative approach, position relative to vital structures, and deep extent. Invariably, a mass is biopsied or aspirated, so all of our "differential diagnosis conjecture" is tossed as the pathologist weighs in. I, therefore, tried to orient this issue to the type of clinical problems the reader is asked to address when interpreting head and neck studies.

I want to thank all of the authors who were so enthusiastic about participating in this issue and so prompt in meeting deadlines. The quality of the articles testifies to the world class talent contributing to this edition of *Radiologic Clinics of North America*.

Special thanks also go to my two main partners in success: on the home front, my wife Marilyn; and in the workplace Laurie Loevner. Marilyn has been the best supporter one can be and has been an equally great "provider" in producing two great projects, Ilyssa and Mitch. And now we have Sally (the Corgi) in the family too. Laurie, Bob Grossman, Dave Hackney, Linda Bagley, Herb Goldberg, Joe Maldjian, Bob Hurst, Randy Weber, Ara Chalian, Greg Weinstein, Doug Bigelow, Erica Thaler, David Kennedy, Don Lanza, Andy Goldberg, and Glenn Knox have made my workplace as gratifying an environment as my home life. Thank you all.

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