

★★★ Score: 88

Cancer Immunotherapies: Solid Tumors and Hematological Malignancies

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At A Glance

This book presents the clinical scope of cancer immunotherapeutic agents for solid tumors and hematological malignancies, elaborates on the scientific details of their modes of action, and presents the impact of these agents on oncology, patients and the broader healthcare system. At present, cancer immunotherapies fall broadly into three categories: immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICIs), adoptive T cell therapies, and cancer vaccines which have distinct mechanisms of action. Immune checkpoint inhibitors rely upon disrupting tumor antigen recognition as self by the immune system through inhibition of checkpoint molecules. Adoptive T cell therapies involve the engineering of T cells ex vivo to target and destroy tumor cells. The first part of this book will provide an overview of the discovery and mechanistic details of the technology. The second part will be devoted to elaborating on the clinical outcomes, successes and limitations for specific tumor subtypes, which includes both solid tumors and hematological malignancies for both pediatric and adult populations. As such, the book offers a valuable resource for oncologists, hematologists, and all those seeking an up-to-date overview of cancer immunotherapies.

Reviewer: Shashank Sama, MD (University of Utah School of Medicine)

Description

This book is an amalgamation of various chapters tackling immunotherapy broadly as well as in specific contexts such as applications in melanoma and glioblastoma. It is mostly narrative with a few chapters utilizing tabular descriptions of relevant immunotherapy clinical trials in progress as well as illustrations for specialized concepts.

Purpose

The book intends to serve as both a comprehensive account of the various immunotherapy modalities currently in practice and the opportunities for future applications. This is certainly a worthy objective as a

deeper understanding of immunotherapy would serve clinicians well in practice.

Audience

The book appears to be intended for quite a broad audience, from medical students and fellows to basic science researchers and specialized oncology clinicians. It certainly serves as a sound introduction to immunotherapy with explanations of the concepts and the varied applications, both current and anticipated. However, given the broad audience it serves, the book may be somewhat excessive in scope for cancer specialists. The authors are appropriately credible.

Features

I greatly enjoyed a few of the chapters, such as chapters 3 and 6, which expanded my understanding of immune mechanisms at play in the background. I noticed a few blind spots, particularly with the notable absence of discussion of KRAS directed adoptive T cell therapy in a multitude of cancers, especially pancreatic cancer where this holds immense promise and is worth introducing and expanding in a book of this nature. The omnibus-like feature of this collection will appeal to budding researchers/scientists looking for a comprehensive overview, but may be limiting to clinician learners and specialized clinicians for whom the articles of relevance may be fewer.

Assessment

Overall, this book is enlightening in its detailing of the concepts of immune mechanisms, and it will serve as a credible resource for advanced learners. I would easily recommend this book to any researchers and scientists seeking to deepen their understanding of immunotherapy or looking to find a roadmap of current ongoing immunotherapy investigations. On the other hand, this may not be the best resource for specialized oncology clinicians with disease subtypes not noted in the chapter list.

Range	Question	Score
1-10	Are the author's objectives met?	8
1-10	Rate the worthiness of those objectives.	10
1-5	Is this written at an appropriate level?	5
1-5	Is there significant duplication? (1=significant, 5=insignificant)	3
1-5	Are there significant omissions? (1=significant, 5=insignificant)	3
1-5	Rate the authority of the authors.	4
1-5	Are there sufficient illustrations?	5
1-5	Rate the pedagogic value of the illustrations.	4
1-5	Rate the print quality of the illustrations.	5
1-5	Are there sufficient references?	5
1-5	Rate the currency of the references.	4
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1-5	Rate the helpfulness of the index.	5

1-5	If important in this specialty, rate the physical appearance of the book	N/A
1-10	Is this a worthwhile contribution to the field?	10
1-10	If this is a 2nd or later edition, is this new edition needed?	N/A
