Preface

Hematology/Oncology Emergencies

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Editors

Hematologic and oncologic emergencies will present on a daily basis to emergency departments (ED) across the United States and around the world. Some patients will have a preexisting diagnosis, while others may present as a clinical enigma and receive their initial diagnosis after the ED encounter. Regardless of the manner of presentation, hematologic and oncologic emergencies typically generate trepidation for emergency providers (EP) as these emergencies are often viewed as more complex in pathology than the cardiac, pulmonary, or infectious pathologies we treat on a more frequent basis. In this edition of the *Emergency Medicine Clinics of North America*, we cover the most common hematologic and oncologic emergencies in a manner such that any EP will feel more comfortable evaluating, treating, and even diagnosing these conditions.

We recognize that not all information about heme/onc emergencies will be relevant to the EP. Thus, the majority of content in this issue focuses on the highest yield information coupled with some background pathophysiology to enhance understanding and information retention. To achieve this goal, each article utilizes a combination of charts, tables, images, and algorithms to augment the text and make the material easier to comprehend and incorporate into clinical practice.

This issue of the *Emergency Medicine Clinics of North America* covers the classic oncologic emergencies, such as neutropenic fever, tumor lysis syndrome, and superior vena cava syndrome, while also addressing the presentation and clinical course of acute leukemias and the major complications associated with chemotherapeutic medications. Unfortunately, heme/onc emergencies do not spare the pediatric population and these more unique pathologies and presentations are addressed separately in a dedicated chapter. The hematology section is equally robust with broad coverage of topics ranging from anemia, sickle cell disease, transfusion medicine, myeloproliferative disorders, and a host of bleeding pathologies. The reader may find a special interest in the section on novel anticoagulants and the use of reversal agents for patients who are hemorrhaging while taking various antiplatelet or anticoagulant agents.
We have assembled faculty from six different academic centers across the United States to compile this text. While most authors have an emergency medicine background, we also have a few authors who are fellowship trained in pulmonary critical care and pediatric emergency medicine, and two authors who are dually board-certified in emergency and internal medicine. The reader will discover that the evidence-based approach to each of these topics will deliver numerous clinical pearls that are easily applicable to routine practice and will improve the quality of care delivered for the patient with a hematologic or oncologic emergency.

The editors would like to thank their families (especially their wives) for their patience and understanding as they worked on this project over the past fifteen months. In addition, both of us are in debt to our colleagues both at our home institutions and around the country who graciously provided the high-quality work that resulted in this text.

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