

BOOK REVIEW



SURGICAL ONCOLOGY/KIRURŠKA ONKOLOGIJA by Mladen Stanec, Danko Velimir Vrdoljak and Marko Turić, Editor. Medicinska naklada, Zagreb 2011. 442 pages ISBN 978-953-176-498-8

The book *Kirurška onkologija* (Surgical Oncology) is an original work in which the authors Mladen Stanec, Danko Velimir Vrdoljak and Marko Turić, in collaboration with renowned Croatian surgeons in the field of oncology, for the first time in our country systematically present surgical treatment of oncologic patients as the most common and crucial step in the management of malignant diseases. Surgical oncology as a profession has been increasingly imposing as a separate surgical field demanding highly specific knowledge and surgical skills from the surgeon. Besides exceptional knowledge of surgery, surgical oncology also requires great knowledge of oncology and of all other therapeutic modalities for patients suffer-

ing from most severe diseases. The appearance of this book in Croatian language is of utmost importance just because of the extent and severity of this healthcare issue.

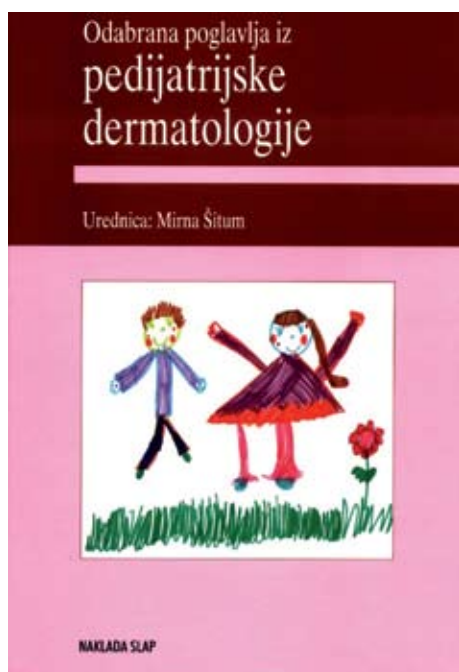
Specificities of surgical oncology pose a huge healthcare problem for a number of reasons. First is the increasing prevalence of oncologic diseases in the past few decades, classifying oncologic patients as most common patients with most severe diseases that require most sophisticated and most expensive treatment modalities. Second reason is that no single mode of treatment is efficient, failing to yield best results in oncologic patients. Because of the wide extent and high severity of this healthcare issue and the role of surgical oncology as a profession and part of sub-residency in surgery, the publication of this book in Croatian language is extremely valuable. Surgical approach to oncologic patient must be multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary, including a number of other professions, e.g., family physicians, public health professionals, population science, epidemiology, healthcare policy, healthcare system structure, healthcare economy, diagnosticians, dermatovenereologists, ENT specialists, gynecologists, neurosurgeons, oncologists, pathologists, cytologists, radiologists, nuclear medicine specialists, molecular biologists, transfusiologists, and professionals of other disciplines along with surgeons. At the same time, a surgeon dealing with surgical oncology is expected to have profound knowledge not only in solving surgical problems but also of the basis of oncology; to take active part in diagnostic procedures; and to know in detail the protocols of further therapy of his patients including chemotherapy and radiotherapy. The surgeon must be able to assess whether the initial surgical treatment of oncologic patient is the best and optimal therapeutic mode, or perhaps chemotherapy should be tried first, and if so, according to which protocol and for how many cycles, and whether preoperative radiotherapy is a reasonable

solution in a particular patient. That is why a comprehensive overview of surgical treatment of oncologic patients from the viewpoint of various specialties is of utmost importance and very conveniently presented in this book.

According to contents, the book is divided into fourteen sections written by the leading experts in

the respective fields. The chapters are written quite uniformly yet individually colored, reflecting differences among the issues tackled therein. This diversity in uniformity is characteristic of surgical oncology, as each tumor behaves differently depending on its origin or seat.

*Mladen Stanec
Danko Velimir Vrdoljak*



SELECTED CHAPTERS IN PEDIATRIC DERMATOLOGY

**ODABRANA POGLAVLJA IZ
PEDIJATRIJSKE DERMATOLOGIJE**

by Mirna Šitum, Editor,

Naklada Slap, Jastrebarsko, 2010, 218 pages
ISBN 978-953-191-565-6

The scientific monograph entitled *Odabrana poglavlja iz pedijatrijske dermatologije* (Selected Chap-

ters in Pediatric Dermatology) by Prof. Mirna Šitum, MD, PhD, specialist in dermatology and venereology as editor, appeared on the occasion of the respective scientific symposium. The Symposium was held at Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital, organized by University Department of Dermatology and Venereology, Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital, and Croatian Society of Dermatovenereology of the Croatian Medical Association.

The organizers of the Symposium recognized the need of the extensive and very delicate problems covered by pediatric dermatovenereology to be tackled in a scientific and professional way. Recent years have brought an array of new concepts and major advancements in understanding the reasons for the occurrence of many diseases, as well as in their diagnosis and treatment. Therefore, the organizers' idea was to offer a comprehensive and instructive overview of these novel approaches.

In this monograph, renowned experts in different fields of medicine, e.g., pediatric dermatologists, dermato-oncologists, pediatricians, infectologists, gynecologists, pediatric surgeons and psychologists present their rich scientific and professional experiences in their long-lasting work with pediatric dermatologic patients. We do believe that this book will satisfy scientific curiosity of many readers and encourage those feeling insecure when facing pediatric patients with skin diseases.

Marija Vurnek Živković