

INTRODUCTION

This monograph discusses the diagnosis of gastric cancer, one of the most pressing problems in current medicine. The book is based on the vast practical experience of the authors in the diagnosis of this lethal malignancy. What makes this book different from similar treatises is that the authors give priority to endophytic infiltrative cancer and its preoperative diagnosis, which makes the book sort of unique. As a matter of fact, endophytic cancers (i.e., neoplasms, mainly those with intramural growth and latent clinical course) account for the discouraging statistics of morbidity and mortality in current gastric oncology. Surprisingly, this form of malignancy is studied least of all among all carcinomas. The problem with early diagnosis of this pathology is not discussed sufficiently in the literature.

Based on the study of more than 2000 cases of endophytic cancer, among which early carcinoma was 25%, the authors propose an original approach to the detection of such carcinomas. Their concept is based on a thorough study of the morphologic substrate of early endophytic infiltrative cancers. Maximum radiologic and endoscopic imaging of carcinomatous infiltration in the stomach wall is presented by the authors as a factor of paramount importance in the estimation of detected pathomorphologic changes, which they termed “intramural blastomatous infiltration”.

This is virtually an original definition of the early stages of neoplasms of the stomach, which is a universal morphologic substrate, the detection of which is decisive for the diagnosis of gastric cancer.

The authors give their opinion of the currently used methods of radiologic and endoscopic diagnosis of intramural neoplasms.

This monograph not only discusses the diagnostic problems, but also describes the two main trends that currently exist in the diagnosis of early gastric cancer, namely, the traditional clinical examinations and the screening of the population. The practical knowledge of the authors is based on more than 25,000 examinations, which encouraged them to produce their own approach to screening of the population for the detection of gastric cancer patients.

This monograph is richly illustrated with radiographs, endophotographs, computed tomographs, echograms, and sections of micro- and macro-specimens.

Because of the great variety of problems discussed, the book will be helpful to radiologists, endoscopists, oncologists, and general practitioners.