

**Dx/Rx:**

# **Melanoma**

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# Dedication

This book is dedicated to my parents, Roberto and Eleanor Carvajal; my brother and sister-in-law, Raymond and Terri; and my niece and nephew, Caitlin and Patrick. Without their love and encouragement, this work would not have been possible.

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# Editor's Preface

I would like to welcome you to the Dx/Rx Oncology Series, a novel handbook series that focuses on the diagnosis and management of malignancy. The topic of Dr. Carvajal's addition, *Dx/Rx: Melanoma*, is of increasing importance and interest, not only because of the number of patients worldwide who are afflicted with the disease but also, importantly, because of the slew of new drugs and targets actively being examined in this disease. In this book, you will find up-to-date information on current epidemiology and the initial work-up for the disease. You will find chapters addressing local and regional disease, as well as sections on current standard-of-care treatment and a look to the future. The new targets range from improving the immune response to the disease to inhibition of a specific molecular target that can drive the cancer in patients. Much like the other books in the series, this book uniquely conveys this information in easy-to-read bulleted text with tables and figures. I hope you enjoy this book along with the rest of the series.

**Manish A. Shah, MD**

# Preface

Melanoma has long been a challenging disease for both patients and caretakers alike, with a notable dearth of effective treatment options for patients with advanced disease. Recent progress in our understanding of the underlying biology of melanoma, however, has led to promising advances in the management of this disease, with novel immunological and "targeted" therapies now offering the possibility of improved clinical outcomes for these patients. These advances in the treatment of melanoma are particularly timely, because though the incidence of many common cancers is falling, the incidence of melanoma continues to rise significantly.

*Dx/Rx: Melanoma* is a practical guide for medical trainees, general practitioners, dermatologists, and medical oncologists that details the current management of all stages of melanoma. It provides the most current information available on the epidemiology, prevention, and management of melanoma, including a comprehensive discussion of both standard and investigational systemic treatment options for melanoma in the adjuvant and metastatic settings. With the increasing public awareness of melanoma, improvements in both primary and secondary prevention of this disease, and progress in our surgical and medical management of this patient population, there is reason for optimism that the incidence of melanoma, as well as the morbidity and mortality associated with this disease, will decline in the foreseeable future.

**Richard D. Carvajal, MD**

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