

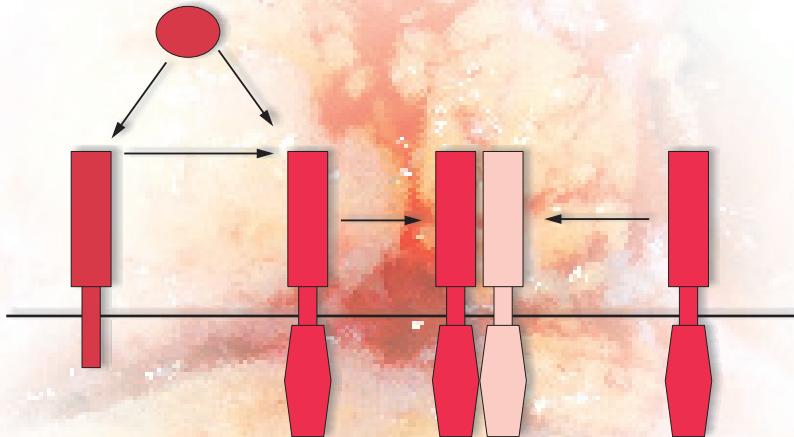
Chemotherapy and targeted therapy in pancreatic cancer

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MEDICINE - STATE OF THE ART

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Preface and acknowledgements

Despite the recent advances in targeted therapy and personalized medicine, pancreatic cancer remains one of the most deadly and challenging malignancies. The delayed diagnosis of the tumor due to unspecific early symptoms and poor response to chemotherapy results in a case-fatality rate of 95 %, and almost 12.000 deaths related to this tumor every year in Germany alone. Although the efficacy of therapeutic approaches has slightly increased over the last years, our understanding of the molecular biology of pancreatic cancer is only in its infancy. Interdisciplinary cooperation of researchers in the fields of molecular biology, pathology, surgery, radiotherapy and medical oncology is necessary to overcome to overcome the obvious resistance to breakthrough advances in the future.

Thus, it is the intention of this book to give an overview of the recent progress in the treatment of pancreatic cancer, but also to draw attention to the many therapeutic challenges to be met. We hope that the contribution in this book will further heighten interest in this malignancy, inspire productive discussions and stimulate interdisciplinary efforts to further improve prognosis of this tumor.

We would like to thank all authors for their diligent work to provide state-of-the-art reviews of the various aspects of pancreatic cancer.

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