The aim of writing Basic Radiation Oncology was to provide a structured overview of the theory and practice of radiation oncology, including the principles of radiation physics, radiation biology and clinical radiation oncology. We have encompassed the fundamental aspects of radiation physics, radiobiology, and clinical radiation oncology. In the last two decades, there have been many technical and conceptual advances in both treatment planning systems and radiation delivery systems. However, there are no changes in the basic interactions of radiation with atoms or cells. Therefore, basic concepts that are crucial to understanding radiation physics and radiobiology are reviewed in depth in the first two sections. The third section describes radiation treatment regimens appropriate for the main cancer sites and tumor types according to the seventh edition of the American Joint Committee on Cancer Staging System. Many ‘pearl boxes’ are used to summarize important information, and there are more than 350 helpful illustrations. Basic Radiation Oncology meets the need for a practical radiation oncology book. It will be extremely useful for residents, fellows, and clinicians in the fields of radiation, medical, and surgical oncology, as well as for medical students, physicians, and medical physicists with an interest in clinical oncology.

Evidence-based data are also available at the end of the section on each clinical subsite. However, every clinician should be aware of the fact that there is a very fine line between evidence-based and probability-based medicine. Cancer is a highly complex subject, and it is impossible to fit it into a simple mathematical formula or “p” value. Therefore, we must not throw away experience-based data during our clinical decision-making procedures. We extend our most sincere gratitude to Zeki Bayraktar, the Dean of Gulhane Military Medical School, as well as to our families for their understanding as we worked to meet our publication deadlines.

Ankara, Turkey  Dr. M. Beyzadeoglu
Ankara, Turkey  Dr. Gokhan Ozyigit
Kocaeli, Turkey  Dr. Cuneyt Ebruli
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Beyzadeoglu, M.; Ozyigit, G.; Ebruli, C.
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