The epidemiological and clinical importance of bone metastases has long been recognised. For example, the incidence of bone metastases in breast and prostate cancers is 70%, whereas it is only 30 to 40% in metastatic lung cancer. In clinical terms, bone metastases have substantial negative effects on the patient's quality of life.

Bone metastases have generally received insufficient attention because of the difficulty in quantifying them, which has left them outside the scope of therapeutic trials.

This textbook is the result of the remarkable progress made in the understanding of the molecular and cellular mechanisms involved in osteogenesis and osteolysis, and their development for therapeutic purposes. The treatment of malignant hypercalcaemia has also been revolutionised by the use of bisphosphonates.

The Textbook of Bone Metastases presents a broad approach to recent progress in all fields related to bone metastases, ranging from epidemiology to the physiopathology of bone metastases and therapeutics. It provides a better understanding of recent advances and, more importantly, will give clinicians all the information needed to help them in the clinical and therapeutic management of patients with bone metastases.
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