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Foreword



With the evolution and more widespread use of sophisticated advanced imaging, we are identifying an increasing number of conditions at an asymptomatic or presymptomatic stage. In many cases it is unclear whether these incidentalomas will ever produce symptoms or alter life expectancy. In no organ has this phenomenon been more marked than in the liver. In this issue of *Current Problems in Surgery*, Drs. Hop Tran Cao and Jean-Nicolas Vauthey from the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston have assembled a group of experts to provide a comprehensive perspective on this topic entitled, "Benign Hepatic Incidentalomas." Specifically, they begin with a discussion of the clinical and radiographic evaluation of these lesions. Different lesions are then addressed in considerable detail. In each case they discuss clinical and radiographic features and the management. They begin with benign solid lesions including hemangioma, focal nodular hyperplasia, hepatocellular adenoma, and angiomyolipoma. Benign cystic lesions are then discussed, including simple cysts, polycystic disease, pyogenic lesions, amebic and echinococcal cysts, biliary cystadenomas, and hepatic hamartomas. Their presentation is lucid and provides the perspective of experts in the field. This superb treatise is a significant addition to the literature on this subject and should become a valued resource for all clinicians managing patients with incidentalomas of the liver, a management dilemma that will likely only continue to increase with more sophisticated imaging.

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