PREFACE

Epithelial ovarian carcinoma is currently the second most common gynecologic malignancy and has had an extremely low survival because by the time the cancer is detected, it has spread outside the pelvis. Epidemiologic studies suggest ovarian cancer to be an endocrine-related tumor. Moreover, there is a need for clinical markers that may influence treatment regimens in a favourable manner.

At the Endocrinology Division, we started work on estrogen- and progesterone-receptors. Gradually, we realised that hormonal imbalance played a vital role in the pathogenesis of epithelial ovarian cancer. Thus, it was thought worthwhile to study the endocrine manoeuvres involved in this disease, which emerged into the presentation of this thesis.

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