examine the capsule of the nodule for invasion by the epithelial cells in four slides because of extensive peripheral fibrosis. As these two cases were cytologically classified as Hürthle cell neoplasia (1.5 cm in diameter) and follicular neoplasia (2 cm in diameter), respectively, it is important for the final diagnosis that the nodule be examined for possible invasion of blood vessels or capsule by neoplastic cells. The remaining 29 surgical specimens were examined in other laboratories and I am unaware of similar problems in those cases.

Confusion of the subsequent histology as an untoward effect after fine needle aspiration has been reported in malignant melanoma due to induced inflammation.¹ To the best of our knowledge this is the first report that such confusion of the histological appearances may cause in the thyroid as a result of fine needle aspiration.

S TSELENI
Department of Pathology,
University of Athens,
Goudi,
Ampelokipi,
Athens 11527,
Greece

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Dr Lever and colleagues reply as follows:

We were very interested to read Dr Tseleni's letter. The fact that this is the first report of fine needle aspiration of the thyroid confusing subsequent histology shows that this must be a very rare complication of the technique and certainly one we have not experienced.

We feel the risk of this could be reduced by having the patient sitting up rather than lying down during the aspiration and applying firm pressure over the thyroid for at least five minutes after the puncture.

In our opinion, the advantages of thyroid nodule aspiration cytodiagnosis outweigh this rare complication.

JV LEVER
Bath Clinical Area Pathology Service,
Area Central Laboratory,
Royal United Hospital (North)
Combe Park,
Bath BA1 3NG

Chlamydia trachomatis in premature infants

Numazaki *et al*¹ have questioned the correlation between chronic respiratory disease and infection with *Chlamydia trachomatis* in premature infants, and have shown evidence of this infection in some babies with prolonged respiratory problems.

We recently reported five cases of chlamydial pneumonia in the low birth weight neonate,² two of which progressed to bronchopulmonary dysplasia; and all five of which had protracted ventilatory and oxygen requirements.

In all instances of chronic lung disease in the preterm neonate *C trachomatis* infection should be sought both by serological techniques and direct isolation. This should be pursued irrespective of the mode of delivery, as both Numazaki *et al* and ourselves have shown that chlamydial infection occurs in babies born by caesarean section as well as those born vaginally.

ANNE ATTENBURROW
Department of Paediatrics,
University Hospital,
Queen's Medical Centre,
Nottingham NG7 2UH

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Book reviews

The Cytobiology of Leukemias and Lymphomas. Serono Symposia Publications from Raven Press Vol 20. Ed D Quaglino, FC, Hayhoe. (Pp 524; \$65.50.) Raven Press 1985.

This book represents the proceedings of a conference held in Siena, Italy, in 1984 where an update on the biological markers of lymphomas and leukaemias was brought up by various experts in each speciality. Most chapters are very well written, and some of them represent comprehensive reviews of exceptional clarity, like the one on the myelodysplastic and preleukaemic states by DAG Galton, that by I Ernberg on the role of c-myc and Epstein-Barr virus in Burkitt's lymphoma, and the critical discussion by F Rilke on the new proposals for the classification of non-Hodgkin's lymphomas, just to mention a few. In addition to this type of review paper, other chapters describe the individual experience of some research groups on specific subjects, and some of these provide useful information on the application of the various biological markers to the study of lymphoproliferative diseases.

The text and photographic printing is of excellent quality, and, on the whole, the book can be recommended to all those with a common interest in understanding the basic biological mechanisms underlying leukaemias and lymphomas.

JV MELI

Muscle Biopsy. A Practical Approach. 2nd ed. Victor Dubowitz. (Pp 720; £45.) Holt Saunders. 1985.

The first edition of this book appeared 10 years ago and met with immediate acclaim, as the combined experience of two leading myopathology experts, on both sides of the Atlantic. There were ample illustrations, numerous case histories, and above all a system of histology "bargraphs" of important conditions which helped decide how common abnormalities were likely to appear in a given disorder.

Dr Brooke was unable to contribute to the second edition, which has been rewritten by Victor Dubowitz with the help of Caroline Sewry and Dr Fitzsimons. The new volume is half as large again and liberally illustrated. Case histories have again been included, but, unfortunately, the bargraphs