
This monograph provides a comprehensive account of those lesions which form a large component of the workload in dermatopathological practice. Such is the familiarity of the histopathological features of actinic keratoses, basal cell carcinomas, and the like, that one tends to become rather contemptuous as yet another example lands on the microscope stage. To any pathologist who has reached this dispassionate moment in his or her career I heartily recommend a therapeutic browse through this book.

Each of the common epidermal tumours is dissected in detail and a host of subtypes and variants is described. This is therefore perhaps a text for “splitters” rather than “lumpers”, but whether or not you feel a need to diagnose the intraepidermal pilar tumour of Ito there will be something here for you.

Both the clinical photographs and the photomicrographs are mostly of very good quality, and there are a great many, unfortunately this leads to some overcrowding and inevitably loss of proximity between photographs and corresponding text. Clinical features, aetiology, and even historical review, where relevant, are presented. Ultrastructure and immunocytochemical findings are clearly discussed. I would not, however, say that this is the sort of book that one refers to while perusing a case but rather is a refreshing and even enjoyable “good read”. Nevertheless, there are now some subtle histological nuances for which I am scanning each and every epidermal tumour I come across. The trainee pathologist would do well to get hold of a copy and perhaps hold that contempt in check for a little longer.

S HUMPHREYS


Many books on cytology have been written purely on the diagnoses of malignant disease. Infection and inflammatory diseases have been neglected.

At last there is the book that many cytologists have been waiting for. This is not only a comprehensive and detailed book but includes an extremely useful chapter on technique and preparation of the material, the usefulness of different stains, particularly staining in rapid diagnosis. There is no doubt that most clinicians are beginning to request rapid diagnoses in outpatients and it is important that cytopathologists should be capable of giving this service.

The usefulness of some of the material from FNAs being sent to microbiology if infection is suspected, as suggested in both chapters 2 and 3, cannot be overemphasised and is frequently overlooked by even the most experienced cytopathologists.

Chapter 4 gives a list of organisms which can be identified in FNAs. This is a highly effective initial step in evaluation of many suspected infectious disease processes and it is essential, as this chapter suggests, that there should be good cooperation between the cytology and microbiology departments. The chapter on cytomorphological patterns of infectious aspirates will guide the novice and more experienced cytopathologists around many pitfalls.

Probably the most difficult of all FNAs to interpret are lymph nodes. The chapter on this is particularly helpful. It is important to know of the many problems in interpretation. Perhaps the hilar tract should have been included in the chapter on abdomen and peritoneum. The final chapter, which includes precautions in patients who are HIV positive, is also very helpful.

This is a useful book. However, colour photography really is essential in a book on cytopathology and it is extremely disappointing that such excellent text should be let down by black and white photography.