
With the ever increasing interest in gastrointestinal malignancy, a book devoted solely to this subject might well seem timely and appropriate. And indeed, some of it is, though in general I was disappointed. The book is divided into eight sections. In the first of these, the development and differentiation of the gastrointestinal tract are reviewed with emphasis on the role of growth factors and oncogenes. The following six sections deal with the clinical features, pathology and treatment of individual gastrointestinal malignancies, particularly molecular diagnostics, gene therapy and immunotherapy. The pathology chapters are well written, but due to the scope of the book are inevitably short and concentrate on what I would call the clinical aspects of pathology rather than diagnostic features. The clinical chapters which form the bulk of the book are nicely presented but are too detailed to be of practical use to general pathologists. All of the sections are replete with molecular biological detail, most of which is up to date, and so will appeal to pathologists with a penchant for such matters. It is difficult to know precisely who this book is aimed at. I feel it will be of most interest to gastroenterologists and oncologists who wish to gain a broad perspective of gastrointestinal cancer. Pathologists with an interest in gastrointestinal disease and molecular biologists working in the GI field may also find parts of it useful. For most general pathologists, however, this book offers no advantage over other well known texts of gastrointestinal pathology, and so represents poor value for money in these days of cost-consciousness.

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