
Preface

Endocrine Pathology: Differential Diagnosis and Molecular Advances provides a broad overview of the major areas of endocrine pathology using the general approach practiced by diagnostic pathologists. Differential diagnoses based on the gross, and especially the histopathologic, aspects of the lesions are emphasized. Recent developments in the classification of various tumor types are used in the description of endocrine tumors in different organs and tissues.

The field of endocrine pathology is in rapid transition. Most of the chapters attempt to capture these dynamic changes by discussing the most significant developments in cell and molecular biology that help in understanding the pathophysiology of disease processes and have the potential of contributing to the diagnostic aspects of endocrine pathology. In certain of these areas in which there has been a virtual explosion of knowledge, separate chapters have been dedicated to cover these recent developments.

The first chapter of *Endocrine Pathology: Differential Diagnosis and Molecular Advances* lays the groundwork for understanding many of these recent developments with a detailed review of basic cell and molecular biology. Understanding the technical basis of these procedures will allow the reader to be critical in evaluating data generated with these new techniques.

We have included chapters on the treatment of endocrine disorders, especially tumors, from the perspective of the surgeon, medical oncologists, and radiation therapists who have major roles in the treatment of patients with endocrine disorders. These chapters emphasize the importance of the broad perspectives that the endocrine pathologist must have in making specific tissue diagnoses.

The last chapter on future directions provides some clues about future developments in endocrine pathology from the perspective of one author. However, alert readers will quickly decide for themselves the directions that new knowledge will come from to answer difficult diagnostic questions as they read the book.

Today's state-of-the-art concepts will soon become obsolete with new developments in cell and molecular biology. However, the basic time-tested concepts in diagnostic endocrine pathology should remain relevant and continue to serve as the springboard from which the most important new discoveries in this field will be launched over the next few years.

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Endocrine Pathology

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