
PREFACE

Lung Pathology: A Consultative Atlas and its companion CD complement each other as a novel and substantive approach to teaching the complex elements of pulmonary pathology. They exhibit challenging yet exemplary cases of lung pathology to help the reader understand diagnostic elements of morphology and to work his or her way through tables of differential diagnoses. These cases have been drawn from a 20-yr file of more than 7000 referrals to Dr. Eugene Mark from pathologists throughout the world.

This volume introduces the reader to an updated approach developed by Dr. Mark in the interpretation of pulmonary pathology. Principles of this diagnostic approach are illustrated by many challenging cases of human lung pathology, each of which is illustrated in color on the companion CD.

The CD is a presentation of images and descriptive text in the presentation of 263 complicated referral cases of human lung pathology, including both medical and surgical lung disease. The histology of each case is illustrated by three to nine (usually five) color images captured to a personal computer by a state-of-the-art digital camera (Advanced SPOT, Diagnostic Instruments, Inc.), mounted on a Zeiss Axiophot microscope. These images are representative of the histology seen on the microscopic slides that were sent to Dr. Mark in consultation. The pathology captured by the images is described by the text from Dr. Mark's letters to the referring pathologists. The text includes the primary and/or differential diagnosis and pertinent histological features of each case, as well as clinical history, when available, and pertinent references to the literature, when relevant. Key words or phrases in the text are highlighted and digitally hyperlinked to associated images or regions of interest within those images to assist the readers in their correlation. The hypertext format is computer friendly and readily accessible to the reader.

The CD allows readers to differentiate subtle differences in histology when separating one disease entity from another. Examples of medical lung disease at different phases of progression will broaden the reader's understanding of the natural history of the disease. Furthermore, one's pattern recognition will be reinforced by histological similarities of various examples of lung disease. The HTML format of the CD facilitates the reader's ability to compare and contrast diagnostic features of pulmonary pathology as they relate to the compendium of cases incorporated within the CD.

It is anticipated that this format will appeal to general pathologists who are interested in lung pathology. The appeal of the consultative atlas will extend to academic institutions with staff pathologists who wish to broaden their expertise. Residents in anatomic pathology during routine training and during preparation for board examinations, as well as fellows in anatomic pathology who wish to gain expertise in difficult cases of lung pathology, will find this reference useful. The consultative atlas will also serve as a substantive reference to clinicians who treat patients with lung disease, such as pulmonologists and general thoracic surgeons.

The authors recognize that, as in many disciplines, changes in descriptive terminology and conceptual interpretation of pathologic entities and processes are an ongoing

dynamic. Because of the historic nature of the consultation letters, some of the current and recent changes in the way pathologists describe and interpret certain histopathologic patterns, such as BOOP, may seem to have been ignored. Some evolutionary changes in terminology have been addressed in the didactic text and index of the volume. In order to preserve the integrity, as well as the consistently rich descriptive thoroughness of the consultation letters, allusions to semantic changes in terminology were not interjected.

The authors gratefully acknowledge Ellen Melchionno and Rebecca L. Rockel for their technical assistance in the drafting of this manuscript.

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<http://www.springer.com/978-1-58829-388-6>

Lung Pathology

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2005, X, 604 p. With CD-ROM., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-1-58829-388-6

A product of Humana Press