

Preface

Frozen section diagnosis is a critical component of most surgical pathologists' daily practice. Reaching an accurate diagnosis is sometimes stressful considering the time limitations, frozen section artifacts, and the immediate resulting surgical impact. Diseases of the head and neck can be difficult to diagnose because the anatomy is complex and the histology is of a wide spectrum. The origins of these diseases can be epithelial, mesenchymal, melanocytic, and lymphoid, or sometimes a combination. Well-organized chapters or dedicated books that address "pearls" and "pitfalls" in frozen section diagnoses specific to head and neck lesions are rare.

This book as a volume of the Frozen Section Library Series will concentrate on the practical issues commonly encountered in head and neck frozen sections. The contents are a result of both indirect experience from published literature and personal experience. Input from head and neck surgeons has also been incorporated.

The book contains six chapters, beginning with general principles, followed by the diseases from various organs/systems including "Nasal Cavity and Paranasal Sinuses," "Salivary Glands," "Oral Cavity, Pharynx, and Larynx," and "Neck." An additional chapter addressing "Head and Neck Presentations of Intracranial Lesions" is included and dedicated to emphasize the existence of such scenarios.

Each chapter will use a similar format, discussing the importance of communications with the surgeon, understanding the commonly encountered clinical scenarios and indications, suggesting how to handle the specimen appropriately, and highlighting

diagnostic pitfalls and pearls. Pathologists should be aware that in the best interest of patient care, deferring to permanent is a valid option for difficult cases in order to avoid an irreversible overtreatment. In some scenarios, a frozen section diagnosis should not be attempted.

I sincerely hope that this book will fill a niche in head and neck pathology, and provide practical, succinct, and yet comprehensive guidelines for the intraoperative consultation of head and neck specimens.

Qihui “Jim” Zhai, MD, FCAP

Frozen Section Library: Head and Neck

Zhai, Q.J.

2011, XIII, 112 p. 146 illus. in color., Softcover

ISBN: 978-0-387-95987-0