
Preface

Major technological advances in the last decade have made it possible to better understand the biology and pathogenesis of the lymphoid neoplasms. This has led to the recognition of distinct entities that differ in their natural history, prognosis, and response to various treatments.

The bone marrow is a key dynamic organ for lymphoid development and differentiation. Neoplastic and reactive lymphoid conditions often manifest with bone marrow changes or deviations compared to the physiological status. Its approach should be multidisciplinary interfacing with histopathology, hematology, oncology and internal medicine.

The everyday diagnostic uncertainties and dilemmas that can arise during the evaluation of bone marrow lymphoid infiltrates together with the ambivalent histological appearance and unpredictable clinical behavior of the various diseases sparked the idea of a reference book dedicated to the diversity of lymphoid infiltrates in the bone marrow and its clinical significance.

Behind the writing of a book, there is often a hidden inspiration deriving from a specific event or a profound desire to share experiences with others. This book includes both. It was not a mere coincidence, but a blessing that a clinician hematologist and a hematopathologist with long-standing experience and special interest in the bone marrow were found to have the same ambition.

The 15 chapters that make up this monograph are the end product of a the collaboration among European and American experts in different fields, each recognized in their own right for their contribution to bone marrow pathology, clinical approaches, and management of lymphoid neoplasms as well as extensive knowledge of modern ancillary techniques.

In this book, the art of evaluating bone marrow lymphoid infiltrates is described and discussed in the context of their broad spectrum of normal, reactive, and malignant status. Reference to the pathogenesis, clinical presentation, and outcome complements the diagnostic parameters in each lymphoid disease entity. Physiological lymphoid development, microenvironmental factors, and aging changes are unfolded in relation to their influential role in normal and pathological lymphoid conditions. The basic principles and gold standards that should govern a biopsy sample are given in detail, while the establishment of modern techniques is described in terms of their applicability, drawbacks, and perspectives. Expanded discussion is included on the category of potentially malignant but otherwise normal-appearing lymphoid infiltrates and bone marrows apparently uninvolved by a lymphomatous

condition. One chapter is dedicated extensively to the aberrancies of bone marrow lymphoid manifestations seen in the pediatric population, highlighting the hallmarks of known and rare conditions and revealing the diagnostic traps.

In a review article in the March 2009 issue of the *Journal of Hematopathology*, the author poses a challenging and anti-conventional question: “Everything you will read in this review will be outdated 5 years from now. Everything you learned more than 5 years ago is only half true; do you know which half?” While there is indeed some truth in this, it is also true that we learn and create through our mistakes; we cannot build a solid future without a past.

We hope and wish that this book will provide oncologists, pathologists, and scientists with insights into current advances and clues concerning bone marrow lymphoid lesions and will inspire them to generate new perspectives and prospective studies.

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