Preface

Technical progress in the identification of cells derived from the urinary bladder and adjacent organs prompted us to restructure an older book "Diagnostic Cytology of The Urinary Tract" published in 1996. This volume is illustrated, for the most part, with photographs of urinary sediment based on current liquid-based techniques.

Besides clinical observations, a fairly large number of laboratory procedures and tests are currently being advocated for detection and follow-up of tumors of the lower urinary tract. The choice of these procedures should be guided by understanding of the principles of the test, always keeping in mind that the specificity and sensitivity of any test are usually reciprocal. A test of great specificity is likely to have low sensitivity and vice versa. The value of the test for an individual patient depends greatly on clinical and pathologic findings, because behavior of urothelial tumors is not always homogeneous or predictable. We hope that this concise volume will be of practical value to cytologists and urologists in the choice of tests, interpretation of results, and hence in the treatment of patients.

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