
Preface

Some readers may wonder why another gastrointestinal pathology textbook is needed, especially one that is basically nothing more than a picture book. We have found that the current textbooks contain photographs that are ideal examples of what is described in the text. The images are invariably of perfectly oriented specimens, exquisitely stained and artefact free. In contrast, pathologists who deal with such specimens daily have to handle poorly oriented specimens cut in various biases. The stains often vary dramatically from day to day, depending on the peculiarities of the reagents and the automatic stainers. Artefacts of cutting, including folds, chattering, shredding, and variable thicknesses are extraordinarily common. We felt that it was time for a reality check on textbook visual perfection, so we have tailored many of our images to reflect the technical problems that we face daily. We also decided to deal almost exclusively with biopsies, since biopsies are the bread and butter of modern gastrointestinal pathology practice.

This atlas is limited to the esophagus and the stomach, common targets for endoscopic biopsies. The range of normal microscopic anatomy is stressed. Not every disease or change is included, but all the common ones and a few rare ones are covered. We have also included some biopsies that have diseases without names and without literature to indicate to the reader that not everything we see has a specific diagnosis. In order to offer some additional insights about biopsy handling and interpretation, we have included a number of statements to the figure legends covering our personal experiences, and what we know and what we don't about certain cases. Very few references are listed, because exhaustive reference lists are found in all the other textbooks, so we thought it would be a waste of time and print to repeat them. We hope that this atlas will be useful for the general surgical pathology practitioners who are the ones who deal with most such biopsies by far. The specialist does not need it, but is welcome to look at it and give us feedback of any type.

It is customary to express appreciation in these prefaces. Our mentors and family members really had nothing to do with this atlas, but we have been privileged to know and love them regardless. However, Lee Klein from Springer was a huge help. He tried valiantly to keep us on some kind of schedule, and he kept us focused on the final product. It is up to the reader to decide if he and we succeeded.

Scott R. Owens, MD
Henry D. Appelman, MD

Atlas of Esophagus and Stomach Pathology

Owens, S.R.; Appelman, H.D.

2014, X, 195 p. 373 illus. in color., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-1-4614-8083-9