

Preface

Percutaneous and endoscopic ultrasound (EUS)-guided fine needle aspirations have been used widely in the diagnosis of intraabdominal lesions detected by imaging studies. These are safe, highly accurate, and minimally invasive techniques. Because FNA diagnosis also can aid in the selection of the type of therapy (surgical vs. nonsurgical) in some cases, high accuracy is critical. This can be achieved by teamwork between the radiologist (or other physician performing the FNA) and the pathologist. Collection of adequate specimens, proper preparation of the material, and the pathologist's experience are obvious factors in reaching the correct diagnosis.

In *Fine Needle Aspirations of Liver, Kidney and Adrenal Glands*, the percutaneous approach is usually used. In recent literature, however, EUS-guided FNAs of these organs have been reported. The first chapter of the book, written by radiologists Dr. Stephanie Coquia and Dr. Ulrike M. Hamper, presents key clinical and technical features of image guidance methods for FNA of intraabdominal masses and organs. On-site evaluation, discussed in the second chapter, assures that adequate specimens are obtained and determines whether the specimen should be sent for special studies, e.g., flow cytometry. In the organ-specific chapters, although emphasis is on the cytomorphology of the lesions, additional studies, such as immunohistochemical stains in cell blocks or core biopsies, are presented as needed for the specific diagnosis.

This book is meant to be a practical guide for the diagnosis of lesions, mostly neoplasms, of liver, kidney, and adrenal glands. We believe that the cytopathologic diagnosis of malignancy should be made cautiously after careful examination of the material, and it should be as accurate as a tissue diagnosis.

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