
Preface

Many malignancies have a morphologically recognizable precursor lesion, a fact that at least theoretically offers the opportunity to intercept the malignancy before its development or to diagnose and treat it at an early stage. The cervix represents an enduring model for using precancerous lesion-centered screening and management programs to reduce the mortality and morbidity associated with a cancer. In the larger female genital tract, precancerous and putative precancerous lesions abound, and the past several years has seen the description of new lesions as well as an evolution in our diagnostic approach to, and understanding of, the long-existing ones. In this book, we aim to produce a comprehensive overview of precancerous lesions of the gynecologic tract, authored by an international group of authors well versed in the various areas. The chapters are arranged in broad, organ-based subsections that should facilitate their review. Contributors were encouraged to discuss lesions that are well established as precancerous lesions, such as the squamous intraepithelial neoplasms of the lower genital tract as precursors of squamous cell carcinomas at these sites, as well as the more newly reported putative precursors, such as atypical lobular endocervical glandular hyperplasia as a precursor for cervical adenocarcinomas exhibiting gastric differentiation. In each chapter, emphasis is placed on diagnostic pathology as well as on those aspects of their molecular pathology that may illuminate the pathogenesis of each lesion described. There is a separate chapter on the cytopathology of precancerous lesions in the cervix, and there are two chapters on the clinical management of precancerous lesions in the gynecologic tract. It is my hope that this text will be a valuable resource to gynecologic pathologists, residents, students, and other interested medical practitioners on the current state of knowledge on precancerous lesions of the gynecologic tract.

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