
Preface

Fine needle aspiration (FNA) biopsies with cellblock preparation or small tissue biopsies have become a primary modality to achieve a definitive diagnosis of a mass-like lesion of the superficial organs (such as thyroid, salivary glands, lymph nodes, breast, and soft tissue) and deep-seated organs (such as lung, pancreas, liver, kidney, adrenal, and retroperitoneum). The primary goal of this book is to address how to obtain maximal, accurate diagnostic information from the minimal available material. This book is intended to be practical, accurate, concise, and yet up-to-date and user-friendly. Some important features are summarized as follows. This book:

- Lists diagnostic pearls and pitfalls at the beginning of each chapter; these were based on the available literature and our personal practicing experience over last 20 years.
- Applies the most current WHO Classifications of Tumors for each organ.
- Delineates cytologic and histologic features with bullet points for each neoplastic and non-neoplastic lesion, including many recently introduced entities.
- Emphasizes the importance of triple tests (clinical, radiologic, and histologic/cytologic).
- Describes the utilities and pitfalls of diagnostic IHC, including over 50 IHC panels, in a tabular format and numerous recently introduced and useful diagnostic markers.
- Highlights the application of important molecular tests.
- Provides over 1400 color microphotographs.

One of the unique features of this book is the highly practical presentations of typical case scenarios seen in an anatomic pathology laboratory at the end of each chapter to re-emphasize the crucial points illustrated throughout each chapter. These are in the form of case presentations with step-by-step critical and logical analysis. Sample cases include common but challenging situations, such as evaluation of well-differentiated malignant tumors vs benign/reactive lesions, distinction of two benign entities, subclassification of a malignant tumor, identification of newly described tumor and non-tumor entities, workup of a tumor of unknown origin, and implementation of best practice in immunohistochemistry and molecular testing in a difficult case.

In short, this book will provide a unique and valuable resource in the field of cytopathology and surgical pathology, both for those currently in training and for those already in clinical practice at various skill levels. It does not seek to duplicate or completely replace other large textbooks; rather, it is a new, comprehensive yet concise and practical resource on these timely and critical topics.

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