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Book Reviews

Tumours Structure and Diagnosis

By R.C. Curran and E.L. Jones.

Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1991. ISBN 019 261840 7. £175.00.

IN THE preface the authors state that this volume is a combination of textbook and atlas. It is evident, however, that the atlas component is predominant. The colour illustrations are two to four per page, usually three, sized 7.5×11 cm and occupy about two thirds of each of the almost 800 pages. The legends are a combination of a description of the illustration and an informative and didactic text on the pathological entity illustrated by the figure. Essential features within most of the pictures are pinpointed by arrowheads which correspond with special explanations given in the text and are marked by small letters. The book is organised in sections, each dealing with one or more related organs. The sections are in alphabetical order and describe various types of lesions, ranging from inflammatory to hamartomatous, benign neoplastic, borderline and premalignant, primary malignant and metastatic entities. Inflammatory and hamartomatous lesions have been selected on the basis of either their gross or their histological "tumour-like" appearance. The gross appearance of tumours is adequately illustrated by almost 300 photographs of surgical or autopsy specimens. The rest of the over 2000 pictures is represented by histopathological and, in part, cytopathological photomicrographs. The latter have been contributed by Dr Jennifer Young, cytopathologist in Birmingham.

The special stains used are represented mainly by immunoperoxidase procedures, but many other methods (over 25), partly histochemical, have been employed. For each pathological entity the SNOMED topography, morphology and, when appropriate, aetiology and disease codes are given at the end of each legend. The quality of the pictures is superb and remarkably uniform. There is not a single wrinkle or scratch in the histological preparations used for the illustrations.

Minor imperfections are seen in a few cytological preparations whose pictures appear occasionally to be slightly hazy (e.g. SAL.45, BRE.14). However, the majority of the cytopathological illustrations are optimal and well chosen. The opus is completed by a well-selected bibliography, which lists comprehensive texts and additional speciality books, and by a subject index.

The major points in favour of this book have been mentioned. Any postgraduate in pathology would gain in owning it to quickly look up typical morphologic features of whatever oncologic entity. The weak points are some significant omissions, oddities in terminology, lack of balance within some sections, and variability in the order of presentation.

The following are examples of omission: the bladder section does not show examples of the various grades of transitional cell carcinoma; also, there are no pictures showing the histology of transitional cell carcinoma *in situ*. Grading of chondrosarcoma

is not adequately illustrated, although it is used in practice. Surprisingly, subareolar papillomatosis (adenoma of the nipple) is missing. In the small intestine section a picture of gangliocytic paraganglioma would be helpful. Similarly, with chondrosarcoma and transitional cell carcinoma, examples of the four grades of malignancy of renal cell carcinoma would be appreciated. There is no good histological example of fibrolamellar liver cell carcinoma. In the mediastinum section a picture of the so-called sclerosing large cell lymphoma would be appropriate. In the salivary gland section, instead of the many pictures of well differentiated (tubular, glandular) adenoid cystic carcinoma, a few pictures of the newer entities, such as ductal carcinoma, epithelial-myoepithelial carcinoma and low grade pleomorphic adenocarcinoma would be preferable. The dysplastic nevus is not mentioned. In the testes section there are 10 pictures of seminoma but none of spermatocytic seminoma.

The following are examples of oddities in terminology: in the breast section, some unusual terms are used, such as "atypical fibroadenoma and carcinoma", "fibroadenoma (atypical)" and "fibroadenoma (lobular endocrine neoplasia)": of the latter, no evidence of the endocrine nature is given. A rather confusing term is "atypical leiomyosarcoma" (INT.29-30). No histological example of epithelioid hemangioendothelioma is shown, which, according to the authors, is also called "vaso-ablative endothelial sarcoma (VABES)".

With reference to the balance within sections, the presence in the bladder section of three pictures of malignant fibrous histiocytoma is peculiar. It should be noted that this tumour is very popular throughout the book as it is shown at the most unusual sites (e.g. kidney, lung). Also, in the skin section, seborrheic keratosis with six pictures is somewhat over-represented compared with Merkel cell carcinoma, the two pictures of which are not the most representative.

Finally, the order of ovarian tumours is unexpected: endodermal sinus tumour is located among epithelial tumours (OVA.28) and there is no picture of serous cystoadenocarcinoma of low malignant potential (borderline). Also, it is unfortunate that Burkitt lymphoma is under the heading of lymphoblastic lymphoma (LYM.76) as it used to be in the original Kiel classification of 1978, but not any longer in the updated Kiel classification (1988).

Franco Rilke
 Istituto Nazionale Tumori
 Via Venezian 1
 20133 Milano
 Italy

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Essays for the Urologist

Urological Oncology—Dilemmas and Developments

By A.R. Alderson, R.T.D. Oliver, I.W.F. Hanham and H.J.G. Bloom. London, Wiley, 1991. 376 pp. ISBN 0 471 92050 9. £65.00.

PROGRESS in the understanding of tumour biology has been rapid over the past 10 years and urological oncology has been part of this process. For instance, in bladder cancer, mutations of tumour suppressor genes such as P53 are known to be common in invasive tumours, alterations in tissue proteinases

may mediate local tumour invasion and up-regulation of receptors for peptide growth factors is found in tumours with a poor prognosis. Improvements in clinical management will undoubtedly ensue as the utility of molecular biological measurements as markers of behaviour become clear and as oncogenes, growth factors or their receptors are exploited as vehicles for treatment or imaging. In prostate cancer, steroid hormone receptors are important, although whether their effect is mediated through stromal cells via peptide growth factors or more directly remains unclear. Furthermore, as the editors of this book point out, *Urological Oncology* offers much for the clinical scientist, oncologist, radiologist or surgeon interested in tumour behaviour, imaging and treatment: they need to collaborate to achieve the best results. This point is well accepted in the management of Wilms' tumour and testis cancer and seems likely to be of increasing importance in invasive bladder cancer where multi-modality treatment may become the accepted method of management.

This book covers most adult urological tumours including cancers of the kidney, bladder, the prostate and testis. It is dedicated by the editors to the memory of Professor Julian Bloom whose interests in tumours of the brain and genitourinary tract are well known. It is unusual for a festschrift because Professor Bloom not only contributed to the book, but apparently played a key role in its inspiration. It is also unusual since few contributors point out areas of their career or practice influenced by the dedicatee. It is not completely clear for whom this book is intended, although I feel that the urological trainee or general urologist would benefit most from the book which provides a set of short, up-to-date, albeit rather superficial reviews. The dedicated urological oncologist should be familiar with most of the original source articles. Most subjects are covered, but in many of the chapters the depth of review and the degree of healthy scepticism which was brought to bear is such as to leave the specialised reader dissatisfied. By contrast, some questions of interest to the more general reader are not covered. There is no chapter on the management of early prostate cancer, no section on recent changes in methods of urinary diversion, no section on penile cancer and nothing on the role of surgery in the management of residual abdominal masses after chemotherapy for testis cancer. To be fair, however, these latter subjects are well reviewed in other similar books.

Renal cancer is covered in most of its aspects, although some facets such as the usefulness of lymphadenectomy or renal sparing surgery are only sketchily reviewed. The chapter by Bloom and Oliver covering responses to non-surgical treatments of renal cancer is a good critical review of this area. The views of many of the authors in the section on bladder cancer have been well aired in other publications and unfortunately there are few new data here. The chapter by Lamm on comparison of BCG and intra-vesical chemotherapy brings together data which are not readily available elsewhere. He may be right in asserting that BCG has advantages over other agents, but his method of analysis of comparing the relative benefit of active agent (intra-vesical chemotherapy or BCG) against control and reaching the conclusion that BCG was better, leaves something to be desired—particularly when one randomised trial reported by Debruyne showed no benefit. The short chapter by Davies and Jones presenting their views as experimental biologists of bladder cancer was worth inclusion being unashamedly speculative and stimulating.

The section on prostate cancer included several chapters on second-line treatments. This field still offers a pessimistic

prospect when treatments are reviewed objectively. The chapter on trans-sphenoidal hypophysectomy included some rather alarming pictures of this procedure being performed; the suggestion that it was useful in patients with unresponsive bone pain was offered, but no data were included to demonstrate that it was any more effective than other available treatments for hormone un-responsive disease. The chapter on the aetiology of testis cancer was a useful review as was that on the use of surgery on thoracic metastases in testis cancer.

It seems to me that editors of specialised books covering developing fields such as uro-oncology have two options: either they ask authors to present in-depth, critical but balanced accounts of very carefully selected areas or they ask authors to write chapters providing a broad overview of the whole subject. On the whole, the latter policy appears to have been followed in this book which offers something of interest to the more general reader wanting short accounts of this rapidly changing area.

David Neal
Freeman Hospital
Freeman Road
High Heaton
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE7 7DN
U.K.

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Photosensitising Compounds: Their Chemistry, Biology and Clinical use

By T.J. Dougherty. Oxford, Wiley, 1989. 241 pp. ISBN 0-471923087. £32.50.

THIS INTERESTING little book brings together the written account of papers presented at a CIBA Foundation Symposium held in London in 1989. It serves as an excellent introduction to the general topic of photodynamic therapy, the principles on which it is based, progress in the design and development of novel photosensitisers, biological studies in the laboratory and finally, accounts of some clinical trials. Photodynamic therapy is aimed at the production of highly cytotoxic chemical species by photoactivation of a suitable substrate. In cancer treatment, the technique usually involves administration of a photosensitising drug at various periods before stimulation by laser light of appropriate wavelength, transported directly into the tumour tissue by fibre optical methods.

The opening papers concentrate on the physical, chemical and photosensitising properties of these agents. Early studies, developing on compounds of the haematoporphyrin group, have led to a variety of new agents, particularly the metalocyanines. The cytotoxic effects induced by photodynamic treatments are believed to be due partly to the production of excited molecules of oxygen. Singlet oxygen ($^1\text{O}_2^*$) is formed from oxygen in the triplet ground state configuration, by energy transfer from triplet-excited sensitizer molecules. Singlet oxygen is very short-lived and highly reactive at, or near, the point of its formation. The early part of the book deals extensively, as would be expected, with the basic mechanisms of photo-excitation, triplet-triplet energy transfer, photostabilities and particularly mechanisms of tissue damage.