

*Eur J Cancer*, Vol. 28A, No. 6/7, p. 1282, 1992.  
 Printed in Great Britain  
 0964-1947/92 \$5.00 + 0.00  
 Pergamon Press Ltd

## 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  $7.5 \times 11$  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).

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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