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E Gilbert-Barness and D E Debich-Spicer, Handbook of pediatric autopsy pathology

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Pediatric autopsy pathology is one of the most important tasks in forensic routine work. In order to differentiate between natural and unnatural causes of death in these age groups, the knowledge about malformations and diseases in fetuses, stillborn, infants and older children is of great importance for the forensic pathologist. Furthermore, clinicians and parents require accurate autopsy diagnoses for further family planning.

The contents of the *Handbook of Pediatric Autopsy Pathology* are completely up to date. Within five parts and 22 chapters the handbook provides useful information about special techniques used in pediatric autopsies, the development and pathology of the embryo, the fetus and the placenta, developmental disorders, chromosomal defects, metabolic disorders and diseases of organ systems as well as the sudden infant death. The handbook contains many

black and white photos, clear drawings and standard reference tables.

In the chapter "Techniques" a very practical overview is given about the external and internal in situ examination, the dissection of the organ blocks and the tissue sampling for cytogenetical, histological and microbiological investigations. The timetable of changes caused by maceration after intrauterine fetal death as well as current growth characteristics and organ weights and measurements is very helpful for forensic expert's reports. Also, the chapters "Sudden Infant Death" and "Pediatric Forensic Pathology" are of special interest for the forensic pathologist.

The *Handbook of Pediatric Autopsy Pathology* can be recommended to forensic pathologists as well as to clinical pathologists as a useful tool in routine casework.

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