**Atlas of Pathology: Urological Pathology**

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ISBN 3–540–14660–1, CD-ROM, US$149.00

Urological Pathology is the fifth in a series of titles in the CD-ROM Atlas of Pathology, published by the Electronic Media division of Springer-Verlag. This particular title in the series is authored by a group of pathologists from Hôpital Cochin in Paris, under the editorship of Professor Claude Got.

The CD-ROM consists of a total of 1761 images, all in full colour, that illustrate the macroscopic, radiological and histological features of a wide variety of urinary and male genital tract lesions. The standard H&E stained sections are supplemented by a variety of histochemical and immunoperoxidase preparations which highlight significant diagnostic features of individual lesions. There are also 47 text images and diagrams, which supplement the limited formation that accompanies each of the illustrations.

Each of the images are filed according to one of three international organ and disease coding systems (SNOMED, ICD-10 and ADICAP) and may be accessed through these codes, by entering keywords or by selection from a series of prompts arranged according to organ or diagnosis. In addition to these search fields, images may be accessed through lists of sampling procedure (e.g., biopsy, FNA “document” type (e.g., clinical findings; high, medium, low magnification, gross specimen, etc.) and nature of specimen (cytology, histology, immunohistochemistry). These latter search fields, along with those that list specimens by author, contributor and date of contribution, are of little practical use and serve to confuse rather than simplify the search procedure.

Accompanying the CD-ROM is a comprehensive instruction booklet written in both French and English. This booklet outlines the minimum computing requirements for using the CD-ROM and provides detailed instructions for installation and a guide for searching and viewing images.

In general there is a good spread of illustrations amongst the major organs of the urogenital system with lesions of the bladder (542 illustrations), prostate (374 illustrations), kidney (470 illustrations) and testis (263 illustrations) being well represented. The content is, however, patchy in its depth; for example, the only scrotal lesion to be illustrated is a macroscopic photograph of sebaceous adenocarcinoma.

A strength of any pathology atlas should be the quality of its illustrations and it is in this area the Urological Pathology CD-ROM Atlas is most lacking. Many of the images are of a satisfactory quality; however, in some there is either peripheral loss of focus or unevenness of brightness, presumably due to poor Kohler illumination. In some sections, prominent score marks are seen and many of the images are rather dark and lacking in contrast. The information provided with the illustrations contains only limited detail, and surprisingly for a 1999 publication, this does not reflect some recent advances, particularly in the area of renal malignancy. In both the image captions and in the text slides there are several obvious spelling mistakes, while some diagrams have captions in French only.

The Urological Pathology CD-ROM does have some value as a teaching aid, however, it is not superior to the several urological pathology atlases and texts that are currently in print.

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**Atlas of Gynecologic Surgical Pathology**

PHILIP B. CLEMENT and ROBERT H. YOUNG. W.B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia, 2000. ISBN 0–7216–2458–8, pp 507, $486.

Written by two aristocrats in the field, this is simply the best atlas and reference in obstetrical and gynaecological pathology. Approximately two-thirds of the 600-odd illustrations (both gross and microscopic) are in colour and of excellent quality. Although the volume is entitled an “Atlas” it contains sufficient text to be considered as a textbook. There is just the right balance between the figures and the text, which is extremely comprehensive and most informative, in spite of restriction of space. The references are carefully selected and approximately 50% date from the ‘90s. A most attractive feature is that the text is continuous and not broken up by references, which are listed at the end of each topic. Every conceivable lesion and its variants are illustrated and described so that ouvre is a veritable encyclopaedia. The attractive format enhances greatly the book’s readability and utility. Each condition is given the exposure appropriate for its importance, with sections detailing clinical presentation, gross and microscopic pathology, behaviour, differential diagnosis and references. Tumour-like conditions are emphasised. Information within each section is bulleted, which greatly enhances its clarity. Although the tome is of reasonable size, it is surprisingly thin and light in weight, even for bedtime reading! The index is comprehensive.

This Atlas supersedes all others in the discipline. It is a “must” for all surgical pathologists, including those with only a vague interest in gynaecological pathology. Even for the specialist, this is an essential reference. This reviewer had a number of occasions to resort to it even while reading it, especially for “consults”. For the price, it is an offer you can’t refuse.

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**A Colour Atlas of Medical Parasitology**

ROBIN COOKE and BRIAN STEWART. Knowledge Books and Software, Queensland, 1999. ISBN 1 87521968 4, CD-ROM, US$95

This worthy book and CD-ROM (CD-ROM only reviewed here) are a succinct summary of a lifetime spent collecting pathological material from cases of parasitological disease. The senior author is a distinguished anatomical pathologist who has worked for most of his professional life in Brisbane, where the burden of parasitic disease is presumably not great, but punctuated by several episodes in Papua New Guinea and a stint at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School in London. Such is his reputation that he has amassed a large collection of referred material, sent by clinicians and pathologists all over the world, to complement his own cases.

The work began as a postgraduate course in medical parasitology in Malaysia in 1997, and its success was such that it led to its expansion into this publication. The format is traditional, being divided into the usual sections on protozoa, nematodes, cestodes and trematodes. These consist mainly of vignettes of the ecology of the various parasites with abbreviated case histories, though the author also meanders into historic and philosophical notes. Its strength, though, is in the large number photographs, mainly of macroscopic and microscopic tissue preparations. The choice and the quality of photography are superb, although some definition is lost in the electronic reproductions of the CD-ROM. Presumably this is not the case in the printed version. The text admirably describes the principal morphological features, though this could have been improved by the greater use of arrows.

The selection of cases is not completely comprehensive and presumably reflects the author’s greater familiarity with those diseases likely to be seen in PNG or Australian practice: for instance, the American leishmaniasis are not described, nor are some of the less commonly encountered filarial worms. Notable omissions include visceral larva migrans and extra-intestinal microsporidiosis. In addition, although there are plenty of high quality preparations from blood and stool, the greater emphasis is on tissue illustrations. Accordingly, there is no description of the various intestinal protozoa of uncertain medical significance or which must be differentiated from recognised pathogens. There are no electron micrographs.

The target readership is presumably undergraduate students and
clinicians wishing to supplement their clinical understanding of these
diseases. The detail is insufficient for trainee or experienced anatomical
pathologists and microbiologists, though these groups would certainly
benefit from reviewing the illustrations. Card-carrying microbiologists and
parasitologists might quibble with some of the expressions used:
“Leishmania” forms of T. cruzi, “bed bugs” as the vector of the same
(though some other vectors are described in admirable detail), and T.
gambiense as the only cause of African trypanosomiasis.

However, the authors did not set out to write an encyclopaedia. They
have produced a beautifully illustrated guide to student teaching, which
would admirably complement any introductory or refresher course on
medical parasitology.

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