Photographic Atlas of Practical Anatomy: Part II. Neck, Head, Back, Chest, Upper Extremities. WALTER THEIL. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 1999. ISBN 3–540–62239-X, pp.(atlas) x + 422, pp.(companion vol.) vi + 430. US$299.00.

The anatomy of the head, neck, back, chest and upper extremities is beautifully illustrated in this, the second set in this comprehensive photographic atlas of human topographical anatomy. The anatomy is presented in two large books (24 × 31 cm), enclosed in a single hard-back holder. Detailed color photographs are presented in one volume, uncluttered by labelling. In the companion volume, the photographs are reproduced in black and white and labelled by vertical and horizontal black arrowhead symbols that line up with numbers, keyed in turn to a list of anatomical terms on the adjacent page. Although this sounds rather cumbersome, in practice it works quite well. With the books opened side-by-side, detailed study of the color photograph is facilitated by identifying structures by reference to the companion volume.

The atlas is based on a new preservation technique that causes very little change in the natural appearance of gross anatomic structures. All the photographs and most of the detailed cadaveric dissections were done by the author in Graz, Austria. Although there is no description of technical aspects of the preservation technique and photographic method used, the original references are cited in the first volume.

A stated aim was that the photographic display could be applied directly to surgical procedures, illustrating anatomic detail that is difficult to convey in a standard anatomic textbook. This aim has been largely realised, although there has been some attempt made at comprehensive illustrations of all procedures in these anatomic regions. The author has nicely achieved a stated aim of showing the transition between the traditional anatomic regions; in sequence from the neck, head, back, thorax, upper limb. The book should have wider appeal as trainee pathologists in particular will find the dissections helpful preparation for autopsy work. Surgeons will certainly delight in the clear presentation of the dissections. As in the first volume, study of this atlas will be best rewarded if the reader has some prior knowledge of descriptive anatomy.

Illustrations of cross-sectional anatomy have been deliberately omitted, as the author believes that this knowledge can be gained from the understanding of three-dimensional gross anatomy. This may well be true from a surgical perspective but would be a limitation of the book for radiologists or others who require a detailed knowledge of cross-sectional anatomy.

The bibliography cites many of the classic anatomic texts but only 17 of the 90 references are in English language publications. There is a brief but interesting list of the individuals whose names are now anatomic synonyms such as Bartholin, Cooper, Dupuytren and Scarpa.

Overall, the two-volume set serves its intended purpose well and can be recommended to all those who would appreciate a beautiful display of human anatomy. The Photographic Atlas of Practical Anatomy should be an essential addition to the library of any medical institution with responsibility for teaching human anatomy as well as university and hospital departments of surgery, radiology and pathology, however the cost may well deter individual purchase.

An overview of many of these diseases, including pertinent clinical, radiological and histopathological features, is also presented.

The first three chapters deal with the development, indications, complications and technical aspects of image-guided pancreatic biopsy. The recent development of endoscopic ultrasonography-directed fine needle aspiration is also discussed. The following chapter covers the embryology, anatomy, histology and cytology of the normal pancreas and cytological features of possible contaminants of pancreatic FNAs. The next four chapters cover pancreatic, cystic lesions, neoplasms of the exocrine and endocrine pancreas and metastatic tumors of the pancreas, respectively. The last chapter discusses specimen preparation techniques.

The two chapters on cystic lesions and neoplasms of the exocrine and endocrine pancreas account for more than half of the book. While these chapters include some overlap in content, the authors have presented a problem-orientated approach, highlighting the cytopathological criteria important in the differential diagnosis of various lesions. This strengthens the books value as a practical tool in diagnostic cytopathology. The inclusion of peripancreatic and retroperitoneal lesions as part of the differential diagnosis of pancreatic FNAs is appropriately highlighted. The chapter on cystic lesions also comments on the accuracy and usefulness of pancreatic cyst fluid cytology and analysis of viscosity, enzymes and tumor markers.

The main strength of this book is the superb illustrations complementing the text. Over 200 color illustrations are included, comprising mostly a mixture of Papanicolaou-Romanowsky- and H&E-stained cytology preparations. Microscopic and macroscopic histopathological illustrations together with occasional electronmicrographs and radiological images are also included. The index is thorough and accurate. The book cites 342 references published up until 1998.

This monograph well covers the topic of fine needle aspiration biopsy of the pancreas. It is a practical text which I see of particular use to trainee pathologists and cytopathologists and also as a reference for cytopathologists and possibly radiologists and clinicians. While it would be a welcome addition to the library of any cytopathology department, the topic presented is well covered in many of the comprehensive textbooks of cytopathology. Hence the cost of this book would seem to make its purchase hard to justify by most departments.

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Immunohistology and electron microscopy of anaplastic and pleomorphic tumors. ANTHONY S-Y LEONG, MARK R. WICK and PAUL E. SWANSON. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997. ISBN 0–521–44092–0, pp. xvi + 287. DM$80.

This has been an interesting if, at times, difficult book to review, thanks to its unconventional approach. It is not for the beginner; the diagnostic challenge is taken up from the point where H&E and conventional special stains have been found wanting, so the role of these (or of macroscopic appearances, for that matter) in diagnosis are not considered. As the title implies, it deals with the practical application of immunohistochemistry and electron microscopy to the diagnosis of tumors, which are not grouped by organ systems or tissue types. There is a strong emphasis on "algorithmic immunohistoology" as a pathway to the resolution of problem cases.

Traditional approaches are not entirely eschewed. There are introductory chapters on the basic principles of immunohistochemistry and electron microscopy. The first of these is particularly useful and includes pertinent words of warning on interpretation and pitfalls. As might be anticipated from the interests of the senior author, microwave fixation and processing receive favorable mention. There follow two major chapters, one on spindle cell and pleomorphic tumors, the other on anaplastic round cell tumors (subdivided into adult and pediatric categories), in which the immunohistochemical and ultrastructural features of individual tumor types, predominantly soft tissue tumors, are detailed. Whereas pediatric...
small round cell tumors can be compartmentalised into a cohesive group, there is inevitably a degree of overlap within areas such as melanomas and mesotheliomas. Nor should the reader anticipate extensive coverage of all tumour types — lymphomas receive scant mention, whilst CNS and gastrointestinal stromal tumors, for instance, are dealt with hardly at all. A chapter on carcinomas, including metastases from an unknown primary, features a number of diagnostic algorithms. Whilst examples are given where the algorithms can be shortened when the differential diagnosis is limited, some of these are complex affairs to navigate and might benefit from a “new readers start here” approach. In stating that all the reagents included in any given algorithm should be employed simultaneously, the authors take issue with those claiming this is cost-ineffective. Nevertheless, these days costs are always a consideration and certainly would be with the 15 immunostains listed in their illustrative Merkel cell carcinoma. The final chapter on biological parameters and prognostic markers deals with the detection of hormone receptors, proliferation indices, basement membrane invasion, cancer-associated genes and other factors that are of both practical and theoretical interest. Each chapter is well referenced and appendices include diagnostic antibody panels that some may find more helpful than the algorithms.

My major criticism concerns the illustrations which, I presume, reflect the laudable desire of the publishers to rein in costs. The lack of color plates leads to instances where it is difficult even to differentiate between H&E- and immuno-stained sections. Likewise, small size and poor reproduction mask salient details of what were once undoubtedly good electron micrographs.

The authors’ emphasis on the complementary role of the two techniques rebuts the argument that there is no longer any place for electron microscopy in tumour diagnosis, but they do not always indicate the most appropriate technique for different circumstances. Perhaps algorithms addressing this problem could be devised!

There will always be tumors that remain undiagnosable by currently available methods but this book should help reduce their number.

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Potter’s atlas of fetal and infant pathology. Enid Gilbert-Barness, editor. St. Louis, MO: Mosby, 1998. ISBN 0–323–00126–2, pp. xiv + 398. AU $325.00.

This book is intended as a color atlas companion for the recent two-volume version of Potter’s Pathology of the Fetus and Infant, also edited by Enid Gilbert-Barness. Many of the same authors, all well known and authoritative in their fields, have contributed to this atlas. The chapter layout in the two books is similar with the basic genetic chapters brief and condensed from three to one. Missing are chapters on the ear, fetal autopsy, SIDS and forensic pathology, but the loss of these chapters does not detract from the book.

The paper is of good quality and glossy with over 1,000 color photos and illustrations. A number of the photos are “old friends” from other perinatal texts but are well worthwhile seeing in color due to the classic and rare conditions they cover.

Due to the nature of the book the written text is necessarily brief and incomplete, though in some chapters such as placenta and nutrition it is scant, relying on color photographs to make the points. As might be expected with a range of contributors the chapters vary considerably in quality. Some, though brief, are made very useful with excellent tables and good succinct descriptions of all the relevant common conditions. Immunology, stillbirths, the disruption sequences, respiratory system and muscle fit into this category. The discussion on gonadal dysgenesis is particularly well presented and supported by Appendix 2, which is an excellent flow chart on the disorders of sexual differentiation. Diagrams of various congenital heart defects are well done and easy to interpret, though unfortunately some such as Epstein’s anomaly are not included. The color photos, descriptions and text in the eye chapter are superb covering most of the important abnormalities, bringing many “to life”.

One of my main criticisms centres around poor editing with legends beneath some photographs swapped or incorrect, occasional arrows missing and isolated text inaccuracies or mistakes with a heading and probably text missing in the liver chapter. A number of the photomicrographs are dark and appear to have been taken through a blue or yellow filter making them difficult to interpret and detracting from the standard of the book as a pathology text. The index is adequate though not all-inclusive.

One of the most useful aspects of the atlas, which I am sure I will turn to again and again, are the two appendices particularly Appendix 1 on “Operative Procedures for Correction of Congenital Heart Defects”. This is in table form with the procedures name, surgery, objectives, type of defect it is used in, complications and a simple diagram of the procedure—a very useful chart.

While not the first or only textbook that should be bought for perinatal pathology it is a useful addition to the shelf in a well-stocked perinatal pathology department particularly for some of the tables and photographs.

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