Uropathology

Ming Zhou, George J. Netto, Jonathan I. Epstein. Philadelphia, PA: Elsevier Saunders. 2012. 539 pages. Illustrated. ISBN 978-1-4377-2523-0. \$200.00.

The authors of this recent textbook of uropathology set out to produce one that is “comprehensive yet easy to read and (that) features many good images.” For those readers who find a bulleted text format conducive to learning, this goal is undoubtedly achieved. The chapters are organized by organ and non-neoplastic versus neoplastic disease. The non-neoplastic disease chapters begin with the normal anatomy and histology and proceed to cover hyperplastic, inflammatory, metaplastic, and other benign entities. The neoplastic chapters include sections on intraepithelial neoplasia, carcinomas and their variants, treatment-induced effects, and problematic areas within each organ. Chapters on the seminal vesicles, the renal pelvis and ureter, the spermatic cord and testicular adnexa, the penis, urethra and scrotum, and soft tissue tumors and lymphomas cover both benign and neoplastic entities.

Each diagnostic entity is defined, followed by the clinical features, which are subdivided into epidemiology, presentation, and treatment. This is followed by the pathology, which is subdivided into histology, immunopathology, molecular diagnostics if applicable, and, finally, the main differential diagnosis. Although a bulleted format can lead to oversimplification of data, those topics on which the current literature is still conflicted are addressed. Despite the summarized format, small nuggets not commonly found in major references are included—for example, the fact that clear cell change in papillary renal cell carcinoma is often found in areas of tumor adjacent to necrosis. The format is not slavishly adhered to, and separate sections on immunohistochemistry of prostate carcinoma, cancer staging summaries, the workup of vanishing prostate carcinoma in the prostatectomy specimen, the Fuhrman grading system for renal cell carcinoma, and neoplasms found in association with various syndromes add to the comprehensiveness of this text. One suggestion for improvement would be to expand the staging sections, in particular to tackle the confusing areas of tumor staging.

The illustrations are copious, of uniformly excellent quality, and include gross photographs, radiographic imaging, and microscopic, immunohistochemical, and special stains. Enough low-power and high-power microscopic images are provided to give a comprehensive visual summary of typical features of each entity. Images include those of treatment changes, diagnostic pitfalls, special stains, and specific immunohistochemical patterns. The images are large enough to be of practical use when working up a problematic case and are well labeled. For those who prefer an electronic format, the full text can be accessed online, with the ability to search topics and download images. Overall, this is undoubtedly a worthwhile addition to the current list of uropathology textbooks and one which provides a uniquely practical aid to difficult diagnoses.

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