

Clinical Genitourinary Pathology: A Case-based learning approach

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Book Review

Pathology, is a constantly evolving medical discipline, with new entities and new molecular data being incorporated in everyday practice. The challenge for the Pathologist to remain competent and up-to-date is big. Pathologists learn from books (printed and electronic) and from senior Pathologists who usually transfer their knowledge sitting on the opposite side of a multi-headed microscope and looking at a case. All information is available in books, and usually there are many books about General Surgical Pathology and also on each special area, e.g. neuropathology, dermatopathology, paediatric pathology, bone and soft tissue pathology, GI pathology, GU pathology etc. In most of these textbooks the entities are arranged in conceptual order; non-neoplastic, neoplastic benign, neoplastic malignant, neoplastic malignant metastatic and so on. This is very useful when one reads for examinations or at the early stages of pathology training where the resident needs to be acquainted with all possible changes in every tissue/organ. But when a specific case appears as a specimen in the Pathology Laboratory, starting from acquisition of relevant clinical information to macroscopic and microscopic evaluation, it is the case-based advice of the senior pathologist that is the most valuable.

The book on Clinical Genitourinary Pathology, by Prof. A.C. Lazaris mimics the situation of every-day pathology practice. Its major strength is that it is case-based and follows step-by-step the long process to the final pathology diagnosis. There are four chapters on Adult Kidney Neoplastic Pathology, Clinical Pathology of the Urinary Bladder, Prostate Gland Pathology and Neoplastic Testicular Pathology, each of them with several didactic cases. In the beginning there is always the Introduction, which contains all basic current knowledge of anatomy, histology, epidemiology, clinical presentation and treatment. The representative cases are presented with the initial available information/history/data prior to handling, and a detailed presentation of macroscopic and microscopic evaluation. There are many characteristic images (97 in Chapter 1, 122 in Chapter 2, 106 in Chapter 3 and 115 in Chapter 4), mainly but not exclusively microscopic of haematoxylin-eosin stained sections, other special stains and immunostains. The Figure legends are so explicit that they can stand on their own as descriptions of each entity. Clinical Commentaries by a multidisciplinary team of contributors; Radiologists, Urologists, Oncologists, Internal Medicine doctors complete each case. The cases end with Key Messages, important to remember when a similar case appears again. Current topics, such as immunotherapy are also included.

In conclusion, this book presents with a useful case-based approach all important topics on Genitourinary Pathology. It can be read pleasantly chapter by chapter, for a global view, or as a quick reference during diagnosis. Its inclusion in the Pathology Laboratory library would benefit all: residents, young and senior Pathologists.