

Book review

Schajowicz, F.: Tumors and tumorlike lesions of bone – pathology, radiology and treatment, 2nd ed. Berlin, Heidelberg, New York: Springer 1994. XXII, 649 pp., 635 figs., (ISBN 3-540-55366-5), DM 580.00.

Relatively few texts and atlases of skeletal pathology have been published by acknowledged experts in the field. This second edition of the late Fritz Schajowicz's *Tumors and tumorlike lesions of bone* definitely maintains its high rank among these. It is written by a longtime master in skeletal disorders, a former student and disciple of Jakob Erdheim.

The book starts with an introductory chapter dealing with the conventional as well as state-of-the-art modalities such as the modern imaging techniques (contributed by Dr. M. Sundaram) used in the diagnosis of bone tumors. The role of needle biopsy – with the author's vast personal experience, methods of handling bone specimens in the laboratory, ancillary technique such as histochemistry, electron microscopy, immunohistochemistry, and flow cytometry – is discussed. Guidelines are given for osteosarcoma resection specimens in the pathology laboratory. The chapter concludes with the historical and other bases for the current classification of bone tumors. Chapters then follow on bone-forming tumors, cartilage-forming tumors, giant cell tumor, marrow tumors (including Ewing's sarcoma, primary neuroectodermal tumor, malignant lymphoma, and myeloma), and vascular tumors. Under the heading "Other connective tissue tumors," benign fibrous histiocytoma, lipoma, desmoplastic fibroma, fibrosarcoma, malignant fibrous histiocytoma, liposarcoma, malignant mesenchymoma, leiomyosarcoma, and undifferentiated sarcoma are discussed. The two ensuing chapters cover "Other tumors" (including neurilemoma, neurofibroma, chordoma, and adamantinoma) and "Tumors arising at sites of preexisting bone lesions." A comprehensive chapter on "Tumorlike lesions" then follows. The book concludes with a final chapter on "Current concepts of treatment of bone tumors," contributed by Drs. Steven Gitels and Douglas J. McDonald.

In the chapters dealing with bone tumors, benign neoplasms are first described, followed by malignant types; where appropriate, an "intermediate" or "indeterminate" group is interposed. The description of each tumor type starts with a

definition as recommended by the World Health Organization, usually followed by general remarks including pertinent historical aspects, clinical findings, gross and microscopic and, where indicated, ultrastructural pathology, histochemistry and immunohistochemistry, and treatment. All major tumor and tumorlike conditions are accompanied by skeleton line drawings depicting the specific distribution of a given lesion. References are given at the end of each chapter and arranged in alphabetic order under the headings "Benign", "Intermediate", and "Malignant".

The individual chapters are richly illustrated. The pathology is shown in the great majority of instances by gross specimen photographs, in some cases supplemented with clinical photographs, roentgenograms of the resected specimens, and light photomicrographs at various magnifications. A considerable number of gross and microphotographs are in full color, a distinctively advantageous feature of this new edition. These as well as the back-and-white photographs are generally of superb quality. Topographic micrographs are very helpful in correlating the gross with the microscopic appearances. Certain relatively infrequent yet important entities such as well-differentiated intraosseous, small cell, and surface osteosarcomas are treated at reasonable length and are well illustrated.

One of the commendable aspects of this book is its balanced presentation of the author's views regarding certain issues such as histogenesis of some tumors vis-à-vis those of other experts in the field. The references are carefully selected and include important publications over the years. The book has been carefully produced and typographical errors are rare. Perhaps replacement of more black-and-white gross and microscopic photomicrographs by color reproductions and additional electron micrographs in future editions would add to the value of this classic work.

This is a book certain to remain one of the standard sources of reference in skeletal disorders for years to come. It is a must for the library of all those interested in skeletal disease especially pathologists.

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