

# Salivary Gland Cytopathology

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William C. Faquin, MD, PhD

Department of Pathology, Massachusetts General Hospital,  
Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts

Celeste N. Powers, MD, PhD

Department of Pathology, Medical College of Virginia Hospitals,  
Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia

# Salivary Gland Cytopathology

Foreword by Mary K. Sidaway, MD

 Springer

William C. Faquin, MD, PhD  
Associate Professor of Pathology  
Department of Pathology  
Massachusetts General Hospital  
Harvard Medical School  
Boston, Massachusetts 02114  
USA

Celeste N. Powers, MD, PhD  
Professor of Pathology  
and Otolaryngology  
Department of Pathology  
Medical College  
of Virginia Hospitals  
Virginia Commonwealth  
University  
Richmond, Virginia 23298  
USA

*Series Editor*

Dorothy L. Rosenthal, MD, FIAC  
Professor of Pathology, Oncology, and Gynecology/Obstetrics  
The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine  
Baltimore, MD 21287  
USA

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# Foreword

Salivary gland neoplasms display a striking range of morphologic diversity that can confound cytologic as well as histologic interpretation. The overlapping cytologic features, the lack of markers to accurately distinguish various tumors, and the overemphasized FNA-induced histologic changes have fostered uncertainty in the role of FNA in the management of salivary gland lesions.

Despite its limitations in the classification of salivary gland neoplasms, FNA is superior to core biopsy, and its accuracy is at least comparable to frozen sections. In the hands of cytopathologists equipped with awareness of the diagnostic challenges, FNA of salivary glands is a reliable technique that can be used as a diagnostic tool or as a screening tool to triage patients into the most appropriate management scheme.

Classifying salivary gland neoplasms may be difficult, as the majority of the tumors arise from epithelial and myoepithelial cells that also have the ability to undergo a variety of metaplastic changes (squamous, mucinous, sebaceous, oncocytic, and chondroid). When a specific diagnosis cannot be made with a high level of certainty, the lesion is best reported by generating a differential diagnosis. Some experts advocate classifying salivary gland lesions into diagnostic categories based on the cell type and extracellular material.

This book, written by two experienced authors, will fulfill the need of those who wish to familiarize themselves with the FNA of salivary glands. Recognizing that the interpretation of FNA of salivary gland lesions can be fraught with challenges and pitfalls, the authors of *Salivary Gland Cytopathology* present a simple and practical algorithm to classify these tumors based on the overall cytomorphologic pattern of the aspirate (cellular, inflammatory,

and cystic). The “cellular” category is further divided into seven subcategories, each of which is discussed in a separate chapter. The book also provides in-depth discussions and exquisite images of the more unusual appearances and less frequently encountered neoplasms. The information is presented in a concise format, yet knowledge is imparted without sparing any detail. This book will not only serve as a basic comprehensive review but as a valuable reference to be consulted whenever diagnostic difficulties confront the reader. The authors are to be congratulated for producing a valuable addition on this important and complex topic. They have indeed done an excellent job of covering and clearly illustrating the critical aspects of every conceivable differential diagnostic entity and pitfall.

*Mary K. Sidaway, M.D.*

# Series Preface

The subspecialty of cytopathology is 60 years old and has become established as a solid and reliable discipline in medicine. As expected, cytopathology literature has expanded in a remarkably short period of time, from a few textbooks prior to the 1980's to a current and substantial library of texts and journals devoted exclusively to cytomorphology. *Essentials in Cytopathology* does not presume to replace any of the distinguished textbooks in cytopathology. Instead, the series will publish generously illustrated and user-friendly guides for both pathologists and clinicians.

Building on the amazing success of *The Bethesda System for Reporting Cervical Cytology*, now in its second edition, the *Series* will utilize a similar format, including minimal text, tabular criteria, and superb illustrations based on real-life specimens. *Essentials in Cytopathology* will, at times, deviate from the classic organization of pathology texts. The logic of decision trees, elimination of unlikely choices, and narrowing of differential diagnosis via a pragmatic approach based on morphologic criteria will be some of the strategies used to illustrate principles and practice in cytopathology.

Most of the authors for *Essentials in Cytopathology* are faculty members in The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Department of Pathology, Division of Cytopathology. They bring to each volume the legacy of John K. Frost and the collective experience of a preeminent cytopathology service. The archives at Hopkins are meticulously catalogued and form the framework for text and illustrations. Authors from other institutions have been selected on the basis of their national reputations, experience, and enthusiasm for cytopathology. They bring to the series complementary

viewpoints and enlarge the scope of materials contained in the photographs.

The editor and authors are indebted to our students, past and future, who challenge and motivate us to become the best that we possibly can be. We share that experience with you through these pages, and hope that you will learn from them as we have from those who have come before us. We would be remiss if we did not pay tribute to our professional colleagues, the cytotechnologists and preparatory technicians who lovingly care for the specimens that our clinical colleagues send to us.

And finally, we cannot emphasize enough throughout these volumes the importance of collaboration with the patient care team. Every specimen comes to us as a question begging an answer. Without input from the clinicians, complete patient history, results of imaging studies and other ancillary tests, we cannot perform optimally. It is our responsibility to educate our clinicians about their role in our interpretation, and for us to integrate as much information as we can gather into our final diagnosis, even if the answer at first seems obvious.

We hope you will find this series useful and welcome your feedback as you place these handbooks by your microscopes, and into your book bags.

*Dorothy L. Rosenthal, M.D., FIAC*  
Baltimore, Maryland  
drosenthal@jhmi.edu  
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