
Atlas of Anatomic Pathology

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Liang Cheng

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Cyril Fisher

Atlas of Soft Tissue Tumor Pathology

 Springer

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Series Preface

“One Picture is Worth Ten Thousand Words”

- Frederick Barnard, 1927

Remarkable progress has been made in anatomic and surgical pathology during the last 10 years. The ability of surgical pathologists to reach a definite diagnosis is now enhanced by immunohistochemical and molecular techniques. Many new clinically important histopathologic entities and variants have been described using these techniques. Established diagnostic entities are more fully defined for virtually every organ system. The emergence of personalized medicine has also created a paradigm shift in surgical pathology. Both promptness and precision are required of modern pathologists. Newer diagnostic tests in anatomic pathology, however, cannot benefit the patient unless the pathologist recognizes the lesion and requests the necessary special studies. An up-to-date Atlas encompassing the full spectrum of benign and malignant lesions, their variants, and evidence-based diagnostic criteria for each organ system is needed. This Atlas is not intended as a comprehensive source of detailed clinical information concerning the entities shown. Clinical and therapeutic guidelines are served admirably by a large number of excellent textbooks. This Atlas, however, is intended as a “first knowledge base” in the quest for definitive and efficient diagnosis of both usual and unusual diseases.

The *Atlas of Anatomic Pathology* is presented to the reader as a quick reference guide for diagnosis and classification of benign, congenital, inflammatory, nonneoplastic, and neoplastic lesions organized by organ systems. Normal and variations of “normal” histology are illustrated for each organ. The Atlas focuses on visual diagnostic criteria and differential diagnosis. The organization is intended to provide quick access to images and confirmatory tests for each specific organ or site. The Atlas adopts the well-known and widely accepted terminology, nomenclature, classification schemes, and staging algorithms.

This book Series is intended chiefly for use by pathologists in training and practicing surgical pathologists in their daily practice. It is also a useful resource for medical students, cyto-technologists, pathologist assistants, and other medical professionals with special interest in anatomic pathology. We hope that our trainees, students, and readers at all levels of expertise will learn, understand, and gain insight into the pathophysiology of disease processes through this comprehensive resource. Macroscopic and histological images are aesthetically pleasing in many ways. We hope that the new Series will serve as a virtual pathology museum for the edification of our readers.

Liang Cheng, MD
Series Editor
Atlas of Anatomic Pathology

Preface

The soft tissues are composed of connective tissue, fat, muscle, blood vessels, and nerves, wherever they occur. Benign soft tissue tumors are relatively common, and malignant ones, accounting for less than 1 % of all cancers and less than 1 % of all soft tissue tumors, are relatively rare. Both types, however, may cause difficulties for the diagnostic surgical pathologist who is trying to assess malignancy and predict behavior. Studies of large numbers of cases and the application of modern pathologic techniques have led to a deeper understanding of and diagnostic capability for these tumors. However, these discoveries also have resulted in multiplication of the number of entities, both from the description of new ones and the subdivision of established ones. Reclassification and confusing changes in terminology also have occurred, at times making the subject bewilderingly complex for the nonspecialist.

This atlas aims to illustrate the range of soft tissue tumor pathology and to provide essential information about clinical features, morphology, and adjunctive diagnostic methods, especially with reference to immunohistochemistry, molecular pathology, and cytogenetic studies, for more than 150 tumor types. The contents are arranged by lineage or apparent line of differentiation, when known, and broadly follow the World Health Organization classification of 2002. We also have added new tumors not included in this classification, such as those showing nerve sheath differentiation, mesenchymal tumors of skin, and more recently described entities. In many chapters, the lesions are grouped as benign, intermediate (locally aggressive or rarely [<2 %] metastasizing), or malignant. However, in cases in which benign lesions have similar malignant counterparts, these are presented together to avoid repetition. Many soft tissue tumors have characteristic chromosomal translocations or other consistent genetic abnormalities, and if they do not correspond to the usual normal cell lineages, they are included in a separate chapter, together with entities of unknown differentiation or uncertain lineage.

This atlas is intended as a succinct guide to a fascinating and challenging area of tumor pathology, and it is hoped that it will be useful to both trainees and practicing pathologists as well as clinicians, nurses, and allied health care practitioners in the fields of oncology, orthopedics, and related clinical areas.

London, UK

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