
Diagnosis of Small Lung Biopsy

Mostafa M. Fraig
Editor

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An Integrated Approach

 Springer

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*To my wife, Lamia, and our two lovely sons, Yousef and Karim,
who provided love and care that were the inspiration for this
endeavor, for them I am eternally indebted.*

Preface

No doubt, there are several excellent pulmonary pathology textbooks with comprehensive and encyclopedic coverage of the topic in the market. However, we sensed a void when it comes to more pressing issue; when it comes to small biopsies, what the general pathologist deal with in their daily practice is more nuanced and different from what we can appreciate on a large resection specimen. In the current era, when we as pathologists are asked to do more with less, it becomes imperative that we adjust our perspective and sharpen our tools.

Most cases of lung lesions are biopsied with tiny biopsies from fine needle aspiration, needle cores, transbronchial biopsy, and more recently cryobiopsies. In all these instances, the tissue is scant and the artifacts abound. Yet the information expected to be gleaned from such biopsy is remarkable considering the size and the hindrances. There is a void in the library for a book to provide a concise and synoptic approach to the interpretation of this type of biopsies. This book is an attempt to provide this type of approach. It is to be as beside the microscope quick reference for the general pathologist and pathologist in training to get a quick understanding of basic pulmonary pathology.

The authors are attempting to provide practical tips and tried methods for the interpretation of these biopsies based on interaction with radiologists and pulmonologists, medical oncologists, and other multidisciplinary team members over the years. The reduction in the amount of tissue has to be compensated for by the provision of more clinical and imaging information to complete the picture. It is a difficult task in the busy shuffle of daily practice to expect such information on regular basis. However, current billing practice is requiring this information to be included on the requisition form. The introduction and promotion of Electronic Health Records (HER) is providing an easy access to such information to the average pathologist even in small community setting and have take to advantage of that.

Lung biopsies are expensive and difficult to obtain and every effort should be made to maximize the benefit and information gained from them. This includes talking to the physician taking care of the patient and discussing the history and clinical suspicion.

The integrated approach is nothing new and every book tries to cover the clinical and radiologic findings in the discussion of a given disease in the lung.

In this book, we try to reiterate and emphasize the importance of those findings in the proper interpretation of those small biopsies. Descriptive diagnoses can be useless and even downright harmful when they are rendered in isolation and without an understanding of the clinical context.

We hope this book can serve its intended purpose and be a modest contribution to the enrichment of pulmonary pathology practice.

Louisville, KY, USA

Mostafa M. Fraig, M.D.

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