

Pathology for Clinicians

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Liver Pathology for Clinicians

With 154 Figures and 16 Tables

 Springer

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Preface

The origins of modern hepatology and hepatopathology can be traced to early nineteenth century when Laennec and his French colleagues first identified cirrhosis as a distinct liver disease. Our understanding of the pathologic basis of liver diseases remained for a long period of time quite rudimentary until the mid-twentieth century, when Menghini (1958) first introduced into clinical practice the transcutaneous liver biopsy. Widespread use of liver biopsies revolutionized the clinical approach and management of many liver diseases, enabling us to recognize earliest morphological changes in the liver and to understand the pathogenesis of many liver diseases. It fostered the clinical-pathologic collaboration and the observational studies of liver disease as they evolved, progressed, and/or healed in vivo. Close collaboration between clinicians and pathologists enabled studies correlating symptoms and findings with laboratory and pathologic findings. This clinical-pathologic approach is one of the key foundations of modern hepatology, requiring that clinicians possess a solid understanding of liver pathology and that pathologists acquire a working knowledge of clinical hepatology and understanding of clinical intricacies of liver diseases.

Detailed discussions of liver biopsies and their use in clinical hepatology can be found in major textbooks and monographs devoted to clinical hepatology or hepatopathology. The plethora of books devoted to liver pathology reflects a genuine and fundamental interest of hepatologists in liver pathology. Mastering the microscopic interpretation of liver biopsies is however often beyond the reach of general internists and even hepatologists who in their busy clinical practice often do not have the time to study in extenso the readily available clinical textbooks and other medical resources. Conversely, it seems that most liver pathology texts were written for pathologists at such a detailed and technical level which would place them outside the scope of clinical providers. Given this unmet need, we decided to compile a relatively concise but meaningful overview of liver pathology for clinicians. We hope that this pocket size booklet will be welcome by our busy clinical colleagues, hepatology and gastroenterology fellows, and hepatology mid-level providers whom we directly had in mind while condensing the wealth of information from more specialized textbooks and monographs into this compendium.

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Abbreviations

AAT	α_1 -antitrypsin deficiency
AFP	α_1 -fetoprotein
AIH	Autoimmune hepatitis
ALD	Alcoholic liver disease
ALT	Alanine aminotransferase
ANA	Antinuclear antibody
ASH	Alcoholic steatohepatitis
ASMA	Anti-smooth muscle antibody
AST	Aspartate aminotransferase
ERCP	Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography
HBV	Hepatitis virus B
HCV	Hepatitis virus C
LD	Lactate dehydrogenase
MRCP	Magnetic resonance retrograde cholangiopancreatography
NAFLD	Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease
NASH	Nonalcoholic steatohepatitis
PBC	Primary biliary cirrhosis
PSC	Primary sclerosing cholangitis
THV	Terminal hepatic venule (centrilobular vein)

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