
In the 11 years since the appearance of the first edition of Davis and Robertson’s Textbook of Neuropathology, this work has emerged as one of the standards in the field. The 28 authors of the 20 chapters of this third edition include many well-known experts in their respective fields. True to the intent of the original 1986 publication, this volume provides “an authoritative text in general neuropathology . . . useful to general pathologists, neurosurgeons, [and] neurologists, as well as neuropathologists.” A comprehensive review of the pathology and pathophysiology of nonneoplastic diseases of the brain and spinal cord is provided, along with a chapter on the nonneoplastic pathology of peripheral nerves. As was the case for the first two editions, the book does not cover tumors or diseases of muscle. As noted, neuropathophysiology is an important concern of this text, which is designed as a comprehensive introduction to our current understanding of the cause, pathogenesis, and pathophysiology of neurologic diseases, as well as the gross and microscopic neuropathology of these diseases.

The basic structure of the book is quite similar to previous editions, with initial chapters on the basic histology, neuropathology, and neuropathophysiology of cellular elements of the central nervous system (neurons and astrocytes, ependyma, oligodendrocytes, and microglia), followed by pathology-oriented chapters organized around tissues or structures (meninges, herniation phenomena, demyelinating diseases, cerebrospinal fluid, circulatory disorders, peripheral nerve), causative agents (toxic-metabolic diseases, infections, trauma), developmental and neonatal concerns (malformations, perinatal neuropathology), or other clinicopathologic themes (epilepsy, metabolic diseases, nervous system manifestations of systemic disease, and the important but problematical category “degenerative diseases”). This third edition offers a new chapter on the pathology of epilepsy, as well as expanded chapters on the neuropathology of viral infections and on degenerative diseases. These latter two chapters incorporate the recent great strides of knowledge that have been made in these areas, especially in the areas of prion diseases and Alzheimer’s disease. Additional changes in this third edition include the treatment of herniation phenomena in a separate chapter and a revised chapter on microglia.

Dr. Davis and Robertson, and their colleagues, are to be complimented on their continuing dedication in providing us with a comprehensive and up-to-date reference, one that belongs on the bookshelves of all those studying or working in the field of neuropathology.

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This volume provides an exception to the old rule that you can’t judge a book by its cover. The large cover of this book is occupied by a brilliantly clear color photomicrograph of a cell and by the undifferentiated and ambitious title Cytopathology. The back cover bears the assertion that within is “The world’s most comprehensive color diagnostic reference in cytopathology.” Inside the covers, this book lives up to most of its exterior promise. I am not prepared to verify critically its claim to be “The world’s most comprehensive . . .” book of its type, but if it is not, it comes close.

In essence, Cytopathology is a large generously annotated atlas that illustrates the appearances of exfoliative and aspiration cytologic specimens from all body sites, and from healthy subjects and persons with neoplastic and nonneoplastic disease states. Most of the pictures are color photomicrographs that illustrate cytologic specimens. However, many other pictures show histologic sections, and there are numerous quality diagrams and drawings that illustrate anatomic or physiologic concepts. An occasional gross photograph even makes an appearance.

With any atlas, the key determinant of success or failure is the quality of its illustrations, and high, consistent quality jumps out of every page of Cytopathology. The more than 1,500 photographs sparkle with bright colors and exquisitely fine resolution. Disappointing photographs are relatively rare. The fields are well selected to illustrate efficiently what they are supposed to. Any volume of this size, however, is bound to raise an occasional eyebrow. For example, the histologic field selected to illustrate urothelial carcinoma in situ (page 228) does not look all that bad to me. And the cholesterol crystals from a thyroid cyst (page 92) look suspiciously like those shown in the urinary tract chapter (page 224) and at the right edge of a photograph that is supposed to illustrate a knee joint aspirate (page 313). Under each photograph is a caption written, textlike, in full sentences. The illustrations strike a good balance of Papanicolaou- and Romanowskystained preparations, with numerous examples of various special stains. Most common diseases and quite a few rare ones are illustrated, sometimes abundantly, with several pictures. There are, however, a few gaps in coverage that are puzzling in a work of this scope. Polyomavirus effect, an important diagnostic pitfall in urine cytology, is conspicuously absent. Cytomegalovirus always makes a great photomicrograph, but it, too, is absent. Some important fungal infections are also missing. But these omissions are relatively minor in what is generally thorough coverage of the subject matter, and they are readily correctable in a future edition.

It is easy to become transfixed gazing at the pretty pictures and overlook the general organization of the book and the

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