Surgical Neuropathology of Focal Epilepsies: Textbook and Atlas

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This is a concise and practical guide to the neuropathological diagnosis of epileptogenic lesions. This book would be a particularly valuable addition to the shelf of any neuropathologist faced with evaluation of these often enigmatic lesions. The 157 pages of text contain 70 high-quality figures. The first 81 pages comprise a textbook containing a brief introduction followed by 5 chapters addressing the major categories of epileptogenic lesions, namely hippocampal sclerosis, cortical developmental malformations, tumors associated with early-onset epilepsy, encephalitides, and vascular lesions. Each chapter discusses the subcategories and variants within the major category. For example, the chapter on mal-formations of cortical development contains detailed descriptions of focal cortical dysplasias, neuronal heterotopias, and generalized neuroblast migratory disorders. It also includes a nice concise and up-to-date review of neuroembryology and fetal brain development. Examples of specific epileptogenic lesions are then presented in atlas format as a compilation of 32 brief case illustrations with excellent color photographs of gross and microscopic findings, including pertinent immunohistochemical staining patterns (64 pages). These are followed by reference tables of the clinicopathological characteristics of epileptogenic lesions, including incidence frequencies with regard to patient age and gender, brain region, and duration of epilepsy. Finally, the authors offer a systematic guide to the processing and evaluation of operative specimens, including recommendations for appropriate grossing techniques, cryopreservation, and important histochemical and immunohistochemical stains based on the general type of epileptogenic lesion (ie, hippocampal sclerosis and glial scars, dysplasia, or neoplasia). Emphasis is more on primary epileptogenic lesions such as hippocampal sclerosis and focal and generalized cortical malformations. In those areas, this is a practical diagnostic text and reference book. Other areas are treated more as brief overviews geared toward experienced neuropathologists, and those chapters and case illustrations may be less appropriate for beginning students and trainees. This book should thus serve as a highly useful guide to advanced trainees, practicing neuropathologists, and neurologists and neurosurgeons specializing in epilepsy. The price is modest for a specialized hard-cover medical text.

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