Serous Cavity Fluid and Cerebrospinal Fluid Cytopathology
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Serous cavity and cerebrospinal spinal fluids are among the most challenging areas in the practice of cytopathology. Familiarity with the variety of cytomorphological features of specific conditions, along with awareness of the overlapping features of some benign and malignant diseases, is essential to meet these challenges.

In this book, the authors provide a comprehensive yet concise presentation of the cytomorphology and differential diagnoses of various conditions as well as the ancillary techniques which help to establish an accurate diagnosis. A brief description of clinical features and preparation techniques, the basic requirements for an optimal cytopathologic diagnosis, are also included.

The cytopathology of serous cavity fluids is presented in nine chapters. Emphasis is placed on areas of potential diagnostic problems. Ample clinical information is given, as is detailed cytomorphological features for each disease. The current role of immunostains in cytopathologic diagnosis is discussed in detail. Other ancillary techniques, such as flow cytometry, are also presented in appropriate areas.

The other chapter, “Cerebrospinal Fluids,” follows the same format. The cytomorphology of metastatic malignant neoplasms and their differential diagnoses are presented in detail. A comprehensive discussion of lymphomas and leukemias includes their cytomorphology, clinical presentation, and differential diagnosis.
Of particular interest, some of the primary central nervous system tumors which are rarely encountered in general practice are presented. Extensive references are provided.

This book should be of great value to practitioners of cytopathology for establishing the diagnosis in challenging cases.

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Series Preface

The subspeciality of cytopathology is 60 years old and has become established as a solid and reliable discipline in medicine. As expected, cytopathology literature has expanded in a remarkably short period of time, from a few textbooks prior to the 1980s to a current and substantial library of texts and journals devoted exclusively to cytomorphology. Essentials in Cytopathology does not presume to replace any of the distinguished textbooks in cytopathology. Instead, the series will publish generously illustrated and user-friendly guides for both pathologists and clinicians.

Building on the amazing success of The Bethesda System for Reporting Cervical Cytology, now in its second edition, the Series will utilize a similar format, including minimal text, tabular criteria, and superb illustrations based on real-life specimens. Essentials in Cytopathology will, at times, deviate from the classic organization of pathology texts. The logic of decision trees, elimination of unlikely choices, and narrowing of differential diagnosis via a pragmatic approach based on morphologic criteria will be some of the strategies used to illustrate principles and practice in cytopathology.

Most of the authors for Essentials in Cytopathology are faculty members in The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Department of Pathology, Division of Cytopathology. They bring to each volume the legacy of John K. Frost and the collective experience of a preeminent cytopathology service. The archives at Hopkins are meticulously catalogued and form the framework for text and illustrations. Authors from other institutions have been selected on the basis of their national reputations,
experience, and enthusiasm for cytopathology. They bring to the series complementary viewpoints and enlarge the scope of materials contained in the photographs.

The editor and authors are indebted to our students, past and future, who challenge and motivate us to become the best that we possibly can be. We share that experience with you through these pages, and hope that you will learn from them as we have from those who have come before us. We would be remiss if we did not pay tribute to our professional colleagues, the cytotechnologists and preparatory technicians who lovingly care for the specimens that our clinical colleagues send to us.

And finally, we cannot emphasize enough throughout these volumes the importance of collaboration with the patient-care team. Every specimen comes to us as a question begging an answer. Without input from the clinicians, complete patient history, results of imaging studies, and other ancillary tests, we cannot perform optimally. It is our responsibility to educate our clinicians about their role in our interpretation, and for us to integrate as much information as we can gather into our final diagnosis, even if the answer at first seems obvious.

We hope you will find this series useful and welcome your feedback as you place these handbooks by your microscopes, and into your book bags.

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