

Paediatric Neoplasia

Current Histopathology

Consultant Editor

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PAEDIATRIC NEOPLASIA

by

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Consultant Editor's Note

At the present time books on morbid anatomy and histopathology can be divided into two broad groups: extensive textbooks often written primarily for students and monographs on research topics.

This takes no account of the fact that the vast majority of pathologists are involved in an essentially practical field of general diagnostic pathology providing an important service to their clinical colleagues. Many of these pathologists are expected to cover a broad range of disciplines and even those who remain solely within the field of histopathology usually have single and sole responsibility within the hospital for all this work. They may often have no colleagues in the same department. In the field of histopathology, no less than in other medical fields, there have been extensive and recent advances, not only in new histochemical techniques but also in the type of specimen provided by new surgical procedures.

There is a great need for the provision of appropriate information for this group. This need has been defined in the following terms:

1. It should be aimed at the general clinical pathologist or histopathologist with existing practical training, but should have value for the trainee pathologist.
2. It should concentrate on the practical aspects of

histopathology taking account of the new techniques which should be within the compass of the worker in a unit with reasonable facilities.

3. New types of material, e.g. those derived from endoscopic biopsy should be covered fully.
4. There should be an adequate number of illustrations on each subject to demonstrate the variation in appearance that is encountered.
5. Colour illustrations should be used wherever they aid recognition.

Paediatric pathology is a rapidly expanding subject. The establishment of posts in paediatric and neonatal pathology in the regions has gone some way to meet this challenge. However, general histopathologists are faced with the problems of diagnosing paediatric neoplasia from time to time. This atlas provides a comprehensive account of paediatric neoplasms which will be of considerable help to the general pathologist and clinician involved with paediatric neoplasia.

G. A. Gresham