INTRODUCTION

This section will focus on neoplastic disease of the lung and pleura. A few benign lesions have presented diagnostic problems and are included in this section. The majority of cases shown here are malignant, however, and illustrate a broad spectrum of tumors, both across and within subclasses of neoplasms. The importance of distinguishing between primary and metastatic lesions involving lung and pleura is demonstrated.

In Chapter 9, the four major types of carcinoma of the lung are illustrated by multiple cases of each type in order to reinforce the reader’s recognition of variant histological features of each type. Other epithelial tumors of major airways are also included. In addition, focus is placed on diagnostic challenges characteristic of lymphomas and malignant mesenchymal tumors involving the lung. The diagnostic problem of sarcomatoid carcinoma is also addressed.

Finally, the goal of Chapter 10 is to help the pathologist distinguish between reactive and neoplastic lesions of the pleura. Having determined that a pleural lesion is neoplastic, the pathologist must then determine if the lesion is benign or malignant, a critical issue in the case of mesothelioma. The next step in this diagnostic “gauntlet” is to determine if a sarcomatoid pleural tumor is a malignant mesothelioma or sarcoma. Furthermore, is a malignant epitheloid lesion a mesothelioma or carcinomatosis? In other words, is the lesion primary or metastatic to the pleura? Multiple cases are included in this chapter to help the reader traverse this gauntlet.