

Book review:

Derek C. Allen: Histopathology Reporting. Guidelines for Surgical Cancer.

Springer, Heidelberg, New York, 2000, ISBN 1-85223-185-2, 142DM

In diagnostic surgical pathology, cancer comprises the most important issue. Whereas biopsies mainly deal with the problem to confirm or rule out a malignancy, the examination of surgical specimens is a different task: It is closely related to the need of the surgeons and their relationship to any postsurgical adjuvant cancer therapy. The duty of the examining pathologist is to provide both the surgeon and the involved oncologist with the necessary information of cancer localization and spread, local tissue alterations, excised and involved lymph nodes, just to name the most important figures. This textbook provides the pathologist with the basic standards how to examine surgical specimens of various organs, and how to transfer the necessary information to the clinician. It emphasizes the gross and histologic features that are relevant for the oncologist and the patient's prognosis. This emphasis is mainly based upon the TNM classification. In addition, the book uses a systematic and analytic approach to describe the specific features of the surgical specimens. These features are closely related to the daily work and heavy work load of a surgical pathologist, i.e., are limited to a practical management. The book can be, in addition, used as aide-memoire for routine reporting of common cancer. Easy-to-read black and white drawings are included and provide the reader with all information necessary for a reliable and clinically satisfactory diagnostic report. The book can be recommended for all surgical pathologists involved in tissue diagnosis, especially for young colleagues who wish to have a stable and well-recognized base for their reports.

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