

Book review:

**G. R. Dickersin (edt): Diagnostic electron microscopy a text/atlas.**

Springer, New York, Berlin, 2000; ISBN 0-387-98388-0, 275.00 US\$

Diagnostic electron microscopy is still an effective technique to solve difficult diagnostic problems although it has to be admitted, that this technique has broadly been replaced by the much cheaper and easier to apply immuno- and molecular biological procedures. Electron microscopy reveals cells, intercellular connections, amorphous material and tissues at high magnifications and can demonstrate structures which are not – or by use of modern laser-based microscopes – only to a limited extent visible by light microscopy. In addition, it has to be mentioned that the physical basis of electron microscopy visualizes images which are not completely in aggregate with light microscopy. Within the broad spectrum of diseases especially neoplastic, renal, neuromuscular, infectious, hereditary, and metabolic diseases are still "candidates" of electron microscopy. The textbook starts with a chapter on normal tissue and cell structures, passes embryology, and focuses in several chapters on malignant diseases such as endocrine tumors or mesotheliomas. Additional large chapters describe the application and obtained results in neuromuscular and metabolic diseases. The book contains numerous brilliant pictures which are carefully selected to demonstrate the characteristic findings and their contribution to the diagnosis under consideration. The text contribution is highly schematic and is strictly limited to the diagnostic points such as diagnostic criteria and additional points. These features make the textbook very useful for a reader who is looking for the specific contribution of electron microscopy to a certain diagnostic question. In addition they permit a fast retrieval of and concentration to judge the structures which are present in one's own image. The textbook can be recommended without constraints to colleagues who are working or interested in diagnostic electron microscopy.

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