

Book review

BIOPSY PATHOLOGY OF THE ENDOMETRIUM

by C. H. BUCKLEY and H. FOX

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Endometrial histopathology certainly offers a fascinating chapter in Pathology, with its multiple morpho-functional correlations to whose definition and interpretation the Pathologist and Clinician must inevitably bring their closest collaboration.

The evermore widespread Clinical requirements for endometrial histologic checking and comparison to the ends of both anatomo-functional study in discrinic pathology and of more classically morphologic diagnosis in neoplastic pathology has included the necessity for the non-invasive withdrawals of specimens for bioptic examination. The histologic bioptic examination is, in fact, a key element in the diagnosis of sterility, infertility and pathologic dysfunction in the menstrual cycle, flanking the diagnosis obtained by means of endocrinologic-metabolic imaging. In gynecologic oncology also, the increasing incidence of endo-carcinomas reported in all Western countries has found, in the non-invasive bioptic techniques, a second line approach in support of the screening of the population at risk.

A summing up of the techniques and pictures of endometrial pathologies as observable in bioptic withdrawals is, therefore, extremely interesting not only for the Pathologist but also for the Clinician.

This volume of Professors Buckley and Fox is not, in a strict sense, to be considered as a

treatise on the Pathological Anatomy of the Endometrium studied by means of biopsy specimens. The wide range of the very fine illustrations takes us through the physiological picture of the Endometrium in order to trace their multiple functional variations. They range from the morphologic aspects related to hormonal therapies to intrauterine transparencies and to phlogoses.

An important part of the book has been dedicated to the description of the neoplastic aspects of the endometrium. From the morphologic analyses of the precursors of endometrial carcinoma (hyperplasia, adenomatous hyperplasia, atypical hyperplasia) the description extends to the intramucous and more frankly invasive forms.

Ample description is given to adenocarcinomas in their variants, to the morphologic distinction between endometrial and endocervical carcinomas, and to the characteristics of the non-invaded endometrium. It is noted how often the diagnosis of biopsy isotype is susceptible to correction after analysis of the surgical specimen. Not only, also the definition of the histologic grading (a further important element in the prognostic aim) shows a significant index of correction after definitive examination of the surgical specimen. Particularly in order to avoid such imprecision the minute description of the characteristics of differential diagnosis is illustrated in its minutest problematical detail, with abundant illustrated material.

The clarity of the explanations helps readers, even if not specifically anatomo-pathologists, to the understanding of morphologic problems.

It is therefore text recommended not only to the connoisseurs of Pathologic Anatomy but also to Clinicians, who will find the correct clues to the interpretive reading of clinical pictures correlated to morphological pictures. The increasing recourse to biopsy examinations both for benign pathologies and for the prevention and early diagnosis of malignancies imposes a consultation between Clinician and Pathologist. In such a setting the series on "Biopsy Pathologies", published by Chapman and Hall Medical constitutes a useful initiative of extreme clinical interest.

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