Book review

Molecular and Cellular Endocrine Pathology, Lucia Stefaneanu, Hironobu Sasano and Kalman Kovacs, Arnold, London and Oxford University Press, New York, 2000, ISBN: 0 340 74197 X, 467 pp.

The book gives an update on endocrine pathology and is of interest for pathologists and authors working with endocrine lesions. 34 authors have contributed.

The chapters include clinical endocrine organs as well as discussions of methods in cellular and molecular pathology, fine needle aspiration cytology of endocrine glands and immune–endocrine interactions. Each chapter deals with the topic in a standardized way. Normal and embryological aspects are discussed, as well as benign and malignant lesions. The lists of references are substantial.

Many tables and figures support the text and make the book more readable. Updated information about gene expressions in the various lesions is included. Most of the figures are in black and white, limiting the value. However, the quality is good and illustrates the main points. Some figures are not quite in focus. In the middle of the book is also included a series of high quality illustrations in colour. This certainly strengthens the solid impression of the book.

In a multi-author book like this some variation in the text is to be expected. However, the overall quality is high. In the chapter dealing with immune–endocrine interactions Istvan Berczi and Eva Nagy have given an interesting update on the topic. Many of the new peptides and hormones produced and their effects on immunoglobulins and cytokines are listed. Many potential targets for immunotherapy can be recognized.

This book is a successful text book. I will recommend it for all working with endocrine pathology. It provides a good update on the use of newer techniques.

I am sure this will be a must for all pathology laboratories practising endocrine pathology.

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