

BOOK REVIEWS

INTERNATIONAL HISTOLOGICAL CLASSIFICATION OF TUMOURS, NO. 21; HISTOLOGICAL TYPING OF TUMOURS OF THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM

Edited by K.J. Zulch and others. World Health Organization, Geneva, 1980, 66 pages. Book and set of 122 colour transparencies, Sw. Fr. 208; Book only Sw. Fr. 49

This 21st monograph represents one of the latest in the WHO series on International Classification of Tumours. The classification which is based on cell types and histological patterns as seen by conventional light microscopy covers tumours of neuroepithelial tissue, nerve sheath cells, meningeal and related tissues, primary malignant lymphomas, blood vessel origin, germ cell, anterior pituitary and tumour-like lesions and vascular malformations.

The conventional nomenclature of tumours of the central nervous system continues to be retained and in addition controversial issues e.g., giant cell glioblastoma and monstrocellular sarcoma, desmoplastic medulloblastoma and circumscribed cerebellar arachnoidal sarcoma, pineal cell tumours and germinomas are dealt with reasoning.

The monogram is richly illustrated by high quality microphotographs which have been kept separatively from the brief but informative explanatory notes for convenience of readers and to avoid interruption of text. Useful information on age and sex incidence of the tumours of the central nervous system, the criteria for the diagnosis of malignancy and the question of grading is given under introduction.

The editors of this monograph are to be congratulated for they have succeeded in gathering

and presenting this material in such a way as to facilitate the accurate identification of the tumours according to an internationally agreed terminology. This makes the book invaluable as a diagnostic help not only for the histopathologist but all those who practise tumour pathology.

H.S. AHLUWALIA

INTERNATIONAL HISTOLOGICAL CLASSIFICATION OF TUMOURS, NO. 22; HISTOLOGICAL TYPING OF PROSTATE TUMOURS

Edited by F.K. Mostofi and others. World Health Organization, Geneva, 1980, 26 pages. Book and set of 64 colour transparencies, Sw. Fr. 109; Book only Sw. Fr. 26

This latest volume in the series of tumour classification is the result of work coordinated by the WHO Collaborating Centre for these tumours, at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Washington, DC, USA, and conducted in collaboration with pathologists in 8 countries. The monograph begins with an Introduction giving a short account of how carcinoma of the prostate is categorised and the diagnostic difficulties as a result of changes in the senescent prostate. This is followed by the formal classification of prostate tumours based on microscopic characteristics together with definitions and easily readable explanatory notes. The notes which include the main histological categories regarding local spread of the carcinoma also described tumour-like lesions and epithelial abnormalities that may give rise to problems in differential diagnosis or be related to the development of carcinoma.

Primary tumour of the seminal vesicles are also included in this volume and this is, I suppose,

because of the common involvement of the seminal vesicles by extension from prostatic carcinoma.

The histological terms are identified by the code numbers of the International Classification of Disease for Oncology (ICD-0) for tumours and of Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine (SNOMED) for tumour-like lesions.

The volume is illustrated with a splendid collection of 64 well chosen colour microphotographs covering a wide range of conditions. As in the earlier series the high quality of the colour plates continues to be maintained.

There is no doubt that these monographs are valuable to have at hand at the bench of histopathologists and could also be used profitably by physicians, surgeons, radiologists and statisticians.

H.S. AHLUWALIA

WHO EXPERT COMMITTEE ON DIABETES MELLITUS, SECOND REPORT
Technical Report Series 646, World Health Organisation, Geneva, 1980, 80 pages Sw. Fr. 5.

This WHO Report contains important recent information concerning Diabetes Mellitus and is

recommended reading for doctors, health planners and all para-medical staff involved in the care of the diabetic patient. It is conveniently divided into several sections including management, complications, socio-economic problems and the role of the community.

The first section which is of major importance reviews the criteria for the diagnosis of diabetes mellitus including the insertion of a border line group with 'impaired glucose tolerance'. It recommends procedures for the glucose tolerance test and its interpretation, in an effort to standardise the diagnosis of this disease in all countries throughout the world.

The importance of education of the diabetic himself and the use of community resources in day to day management is emphasised, rather than overdependence on the doctor or medical profession as a whole. Problems peculiar to developing countries are also discussed.

The list of recommendations in the final section merit serious consideration and should prove useful in planning health care for those with diabetes mellitus.

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