Textbook of Forensic Histopathology

is a foundation book aimed at all the postgraduate students and young practitioners of forensic medicine and toxicology. The book attempts to develop and bring in a culture of quality forensic services and bridge the gap in the current postgraduate forensic training in the subcontinent where histopathology is either not taught properly or taught superficially to forensic pathology practitioners.

Salient Features

- The text covers basic issues to advance knowledge in histopathology in 42 chapters.
- The book covers the subject from basics of histology and anatomical pathology to forensic pathology so as to make the student understand the complexities better and in a simplified form.
- All forensic chapters have relevant case illustrations.
- All the chapters deal with the common issues faced by most forensic practitioners.
- There are ideal postmortem reports supplemented with multicolour gross and histopathological pictures.
- A colour atlas is given for quick assessment of key findings.
- In times to come, it would serve as a permanent companion to all the postgraduate students as well as the teachers of forensic medicine and toxicology.

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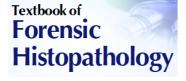


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Preface

This is a basic foundation book and is not a replacement to standard pathology books. The guidance of a qualified pathologist is always helpful in difficult cases. If histopathology is being practiced by forensic practitioners then they can resolve a majority of cases. In fact, this is a kind of modular teaching at postgraduate level.

Histopathology is a very important investigation in deciding sudden natural death, time of injury and specific findings in certain cases. In the assessment of medical findings, in the administration of justice, a particularly high degree of reliability of the evidence has to be obtained. In forensic practice nothing is so trivial and small that it cannot become the decisive factor in the outcome of the case.

A hasty curtailment of the histological investigation is frequently a relinquishment of knowledge and evidential possibilities which cannot later be recovered. Today, in majority of cases, the cause of death is still being concluded without the use of histology, the reasons are diverse: (i) Specialized knowledge and understanding of the necessity of a histological examination are absent, (ii) investigating officers and doctors conducting postmortem examination are interested in the 'quick settlement' of a case, (iii) an enquiry into a case appears 'sufficiently clear' from macroscopic findings alone, (iv) there is no orientation of such examination among experts due to insufficient training.

An experienced medical man knows the necessity of further examination and the extent to which histological examination can be helpful over the naked eye examination. In many parts of the world, it is considered as a lapse if macroscopic findings are not being supplemented by histological findings. This simplified approach in the form of Textbook of Forensic Histopathology will be helpful in:

- 1. Study of histopathology of natural diseases and some histological aspects of forensic cases.
- 2. Study of morbid anatomy and pathological changes in organs during postmortem examinations and follow-up of these cases in histopathology laboratory.
- 3. Interpretation of findings in relation to medicolegal issues.
- 4. Report writing through examples of case scenarios.
- 5. Opinion expression in relation to different medicolegal situations.

This idea was conceived during my formative years and we organized an international conference on forensic histopathology and cytology in 1998. The working in Malaysia enriched my experience in this subject. At University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, forensic histopathology was a part of pathology department. Here, medicolegal and clinical autopsies were conducted by forensic people. This opportunity greatly enriched my experience in this art.

This book is well organized into 42 chapters which cover subjects from basics of histology to advances in forensic pathology albeit in simplified form. All chapters have case illustrations. Any suggestion to improve this modest and humble venture will be appreciated.

OP Murty

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Producing a textbook with so many color photographs and diagrams is truly a team effort between author and publisher. I am grateful to CEO Mr Satish Jain and Vice-President Mr YN Arjuna of CBS Publishers & Distributors Pvt Ltd, New Delhi, for publishing this book.

With gratitude

OP Murty

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