

## **Transabdominal Fine-Needle Aspiration Biopsy: A Colour Atlas and Monograph.**

Second edition. Grace Chia-yu Hsu Yang, M.D., F.I.A.C., and Liang-Che Tao, M.D., F.R.C.P.C. *Hackensack, New Jersey, World Scientific Publishing Co., 2007, hard back with CD-ROM, 460 pages, USD 185.00*

The first edition of Dr. Liang-Che Tao's monograph on *Transabdominal Fine-Needle Aspiration Biopsy* was published in 1990. His personal experiences were a helpful guide to cytopathologists and completely revolutionized the approach to clinical diagnosis of space-occupying lesions in the abdomen. The second edition, *Transabdominal Fine-Needle Aspiration Biopsy: A Colour Atlas and Monograph*, by Dr. Grace C. H. Yang is simply exquisite. The book size is compact and easy to carry, yet extensively expanded, with each abdominal organ having a dedicated chapter packed with concise yet comprehensive up-to-date, practical information. The illustrations are extraordinary, an aesthetic treat for readers, encompassing all possible presentations of a tumor.

The monograph is divided into 12 chapters. The organization of the monograph follows a natural flow beginning with the history and basic principles of aspiration biopsy, description of procedures and techniques, approaches to the interpretation of transabdominal fine needle aspiration biopsy (FNAB), comprehensive chapters on individual abdominal organs and ancillary techniques essential for transabdominal aspiration biopsy.

The first 3 chapters are devoted to general diagnostic cytology, including history, indications, contraindications, complications, reliability, accuracy of cytomorphologic interpretation and endoscopic ultrasound-guided FNAB. The technique of transabdominal aspiration, smear and cell block preparation, Ultrafast Papanicolaou staining, causes of false negative results and approach to interpretation of aspirated material are handled with expertise. Use of the Ultrafast Papanicolaou stain (developed by Dr. Yang) provides excellent cellular detail to arrive at the correct diagnosis.

The cytology of each organ is systematically covered in individual chapters, providing in-depth discussions, pertinent diagnostic criteria and challenges. The information and references provided are up to

date. The chapter on the liver deals with gross diagnosis of liver aspirates and underrecognized variants of hepatocellular carcinoma. The chapter on the retroperitoneum comprehensively covers soft tissue tumors and germ cell tumors. A new chapter on gynecologic tumors has been included. It covers a spectrum of lesions ranging from endometriosis to endometrial stromal sarcoma to perivascular endothelial cell tumor of the broad ligament. The chapter on malignant lymphoma provides current World Health Organization classifications. New classifications of adrenal, kidney, liver and pancreatic tumors have been provided. Where applicable, discussion of ancillary techniques, including immunocytochemistry staining and cytogenetic and molecular evidence, has been incorporated in the text. Immunomarkers used for FNAB practice have been comprehensively covered in the text and in a chapter in the end.

This book contains over 1,350 illustrations. Each organ chapter is beautifully illustrated, comprehensive and outstanding. Dr. Yang has gracefully used a series of composite figures with cytohistologic correlations. One unique feature of this monograph is the CD-ROM. Extraordinarily sharp images that can be enlarged on the computer to show cellular details is a novel feature. The figures contain arrows and include the type of antibodies used, so that the readers can have a visual impression that makes the book entertaining and painless to read.

The CD-ROM in most pathology books consists of digital image banks, but in this book the digital images have been inserted into word documents containing expanded legends with clinical history, diagnostic difficulties and comments. Readers can insert the CD-ROM on a laptop computer and open the book to read. Every time a figure is referred to, one can look at the corresponding figures on the computer screen to avoid flipping the pages back and forth.

Dr. Yang should be congratulated on producing this comprehensive yet concise and practical book. I highly recommend it for general pathologists, practicing cytopathologists, pathology residents and fellows, cytotechnologists and clinical cytologists.

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