

# Preface

This volume, in the series *Essentials in Cytopathology*, represents an effort to present the cytologic features of neoplastic and nonneoplastic processes affecting the CNS. The *smear technique* is a powerful diagnostic tool during neurosurgical intraoperative consultation and, in contrast to what occurs in a differed biopsy, is the only “ancillary technique” available to conventional sections, making it specially recommendable.

The text is arranged in the following manner. The first four chapters include historical background, accuracy, tumors classification, clinical considerations, neuroimaging, and methodology including smear technique, fixation and staining methods, algorithmic approach, and normal patterns. The following chapters review the cytologic and histologic characteristics of each tumor group according to WHO classification and consensus terminology. Benign cystic lesions, nonneoplastic disorders, and extradural masses compressing the spinal cord are the last chapters.

The material presented has been selected from real-life cases and archival material accrued over a period of 30 years and covers the full spectrum of common lesions, but many unusual and rare conditions are also included. Text reviews the range of appearances that can occur in each type of lesion and also includes the most relevant clinical, radiologic, and macroscopic features. Numerous illustrations and tables support a morphologic discussion in which differential diagnosis and potential pitfalls are emphasized. Also, the most relevant references are included in each topic which should serve as the basis for more detailed reading.

In summary, this book is primarily intended to practicing pathologists, both experienced and in training, looking for a

practical overview of CNS intraoperative diagnosis and its principal aim is to allow a more comfortable approach to this stressing diagnostic activity. As Perry and Brat stated—“nothing seems to provoke a panic attack more reliably than the *neurofrozen*, yet there is often little practical guidance available for this common setting” [1]. It is our hope that the physician who turns to this text for assistance may come away with more confidence.

## Reference

1. Perry A, Brat DJ. Practical surgical neuropathology: a diagnostic approach. Philadelphia: Churchill-Livingston; 2010.



<http://www.springer.com/978-1-4614-8428-8>

Central Nervous System Intraoperative Cytopathology

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2014, XIV, 276 p. 129 illus. in color., Softcover

ISBN: 978-1-4614-8428-8