Preface

Despite many recent advances in ancillary techniques, intraoperative pathology consultation remains one of the most diagnostically and technically challenging areas of surgical pathology. Frozen sections are usually performed while the patient is under general anesthesia and often form the basis for making immediate treatment decisions. Therefore, pathologists must render a diagnosis quickly, despite the pitfalls and artifacts associated with frozen section preparation. Unfortunately, most standard pathology textbooks largely ignore the topic of frozen section, and the value of gross examination of surgical resection specimens is no longer emphasized in many training programs.

Frozen Section Library: Appendix, Colon, and Anus is a volume in the Frozen Section Library Series. The book is divided into seven chapters, each of which discusses the clinical context in which a frozen section consultation may be requested. The chapters emphasize gross characteristics of disorders of the lower gastrointestinal tract, address common questions pathologists must answer during frozen section examination, and discuss pitfalls encountered during frozen section analysis. Recommendations regarding specimen handling are also provided.

We hope that this monograph satisfies the need for practical guidelines for the handling and interpretation of resection specimens and facilitates communications between surgical pathologists and our surgical colleagues.

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