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Atlas of Tumour Pathology Tumours of the Testis, Adnexa, Spermatic Cord and Scrotum

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The tumours of the testis, male adnexae, spermatic cord and scrotum are described on 385 pages in the manner of a handbook. For the non-pathologist, it is a pleasure to view the excellent macrophotographs of the various tumours and their histological counterparts. The different tumour entities and variations are dealt with comprehensively. For example, more than 40 pages have been dedicated to the description of testicular seminoma.

For a better understanding, the various staging systems and classifications of the different tumours are presented. Anatomical drawings which can be used to give patients graphic demonstrations and the relevant embryological aspects are included. Diagnostic pathology techniques which are required for specific tumour diagnosis are

described, such as immunohistochemistry, ploidy or marker chromosomes. The authors have omitted technical descriptions thereby maintaining the readability of the book. A comprehensive list of references for each chapter gives the possibility to follow up specific topics.

The non-pathologist might want to use this book in the manner of a botanical classification guide-book. This, however, does not seem to be the way in which a pathologist identifies and diagnoses rare tumours. If, for example, one wants to know the diagnosis of a scrotal tumour - and these range from Bowenoid papulosis to angiokeratomas - then one is forced to study the classification of these tumours in depth in order to understand the details. Perhaps the pathologist does not need to do so, but many a reader who is mainly used to reading pathology reports and only occasionally attends pathology case conferences may find that the book is beyond his scope as the chapters build on each other in a step-by-step fashion. If, however, the reader is willing to study the text systematically he will be able to acquire comprehensive and detailed knowledge and this will allow a better understanding of the problems of pathologic classification and diagnosis. J.E. Altwein