WHO Classification of Tumours of the Digestive System

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WHO Classification of Tumours of the Digestive System is the 3rd volume of the 4th edition of the WHO series on histological and genetic typing of human tumours. Genetic studies and molecular targeted therapy are key research areas in oncology. This book integrates the new scientific data into clinical practice in a concise manner, oriented towards a precise diagnosis and staging for an optimal treatment. The book is written by more than 100 authors from 22 different countries and has been divided into twelve chapters. In the first chapter "Diagnostic terms revised" the premalignant lesions of the digestive tract are defined, according to the new understanding of the molecular alterations involved in carcinogenesis, particularly related to conditions where chronic inflammation is the main stimulus for oncogenesis. The new nomenclature and classification of the neuroendocrine tumours of the digestive tract (WHO 2010) are clearly presented, with an integrated scheme that bridges previously used terms and classification (WHO 2000).

The following eleven chapters include sections of all known digestive neoplasms and their variants. Briefly, concise data are provided including definition, new ICD-O codes, epidemiology and localization, clinical features and imaging diagnostic modalities, macroscopic and histological variants, tumor spread and staging. These data are illustrated by excellent color images. Information regarding grading, genetic susceptibility and molecular pathology are also discussed in relation with disease prognosis.

Based on impressive scientific literature data (more than 3,700 references) and on important clinical experience documented by more than 700 color images, this book approaches molecular and genetic data in clinical oncology practice for a better understanding of predictive factors and molecular targeted therapy. Neuroendocrine tumours, lymphomas, mesenchymal and secondary tumours are discussed in chapters referring to all the segments of the digestive tract - esophagus, stomach, small intestine, colon, rectum, liver, gallbladder, extrahepatic bile ducts, pancreas.

A distinct chapter is dedicated to the adenocarcinoma of the esophagogastric junction, as there are considerable differences regarding molecular oncogenesis between esophageal, "cardia" and "non-cardia" gastric adenocarcinoma.

In the chapter dedicated to the tumours of the colon and rectum, MUTYH-associated polyposis (a disorder recognized in 2002) and serrated polyps and serrated polyposis are discussed separately.

Diagnostic algorithms are offered for tumours of the liver and pancreas, for an accurate differentiation between types of solid and cystic tumours located in the liver or pancreas.

The WHO Classification of Tumours of the Digestive System summarizes in a concise manner the correlations between genotype and phenotype of the digestive tract tumours, offering an excellent tool for the clinical practitioner in terms of precise diagnosis, appropriate prognosis evaluation and adequate molecular targeted therapy.

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