Prostate Pathology

Peter A Humphrey, MD, PhD
To my wife Kay, with love, for her tolerance of stolen time
and for allowing transformation of rooms in our house into rooms dedicated to the book,
and to my wonderful children Tom and Jen.
Prostate Pathology

Peter A Humphrey, MD, PhD

Professor of Pathology and Immunology
Division of Surgical Pathology
Department of Pathology and Immunology
Washington University School of Medicine
St Louis, Missouri
### Preface viii

### Acknowledgments ix

### Chapter 1
Prostate Gland Development and Anatomic Structure 2

- [1.1] Introduction to Prostate Gland Location and Function 3
- [1.2] Historical Perspective of Anatomy and Concepts of Lobes and Zones 3
- [1.3] Embryology and Development 3
- [1.4] Maldevelopment 5
- [1.5] Adult Prostate Anatomy 7
- [1.6] Prostatic Tissue Ectopia 22

### Chapter 2
Prostatic Tissue Handling and Sampling 30

- [2.1] Cytologic Specimens 32
- [2.2] Core Needle Biopsy 32
- [2.3] Transurethral Prostatectomy (TURP) 40
- [2.4] Open Suprapubic or Retropubic Simple Prostatectomy (Enucleation) Tissue 44
- [2.5] Radical Perineal and Retropubic Prostatectomy 44
- [2.6] Cystoprostatectomy 51
- [2.7] Postmortem Examination of the Prostate 51

### Chapter 3
Fine Needle Aspiration Biopsy of the Prostate 58

- [3.1] The Cells 59
- [3.2] Benign Diseases of the Prostate 62
- [3.3] Malignant Diseases of the Prostate 64
- [3.4] Variants of Prostatic Carcinoma 68

### Chapter 4
Inflammation and Infection 76

- [4.1] Clinical Prostatitis 77
- [4.2] Clinical Bacterial Prostatitis 77
- [4.3] Histologic Acute Inflammation 78
- [4.4] Clinical Chronic Bacterial Prostatitis 80
- [4.5] Clinical Chronic Abacterial Prostatitis (Inflammatory) 80
- [4.6] Histologic Chronic Inflammation 80
- [4.7] Clinical Chronic Abacterial Prostatitis (Noninflammatory), or Prostatodynia 86
- [4.8] Granulomatous Prostatitis 86
- [4.9] Vasculitis 94
- [4.10] Infections Prostatitis: Additional Types 94

### Chapter 5
Atrophy 100

- [5.1] Classification 101
- [5.2] Pathologic Features 101
- [5.3] Differential Diagnosis 109
- [5.4] Biological Significance 111

### Chapter 6
Metaplasia 114

- [6.1] Squamous Cell Metaplasia 115
- [6.2] Transitional Cell Metaplasia 119
- [6.3] Mucinous Metaplasia 121
- [6.4] Paneth Cell–Like Metaplasia 122
- [6.5] Nephrogenic Metaplasia (Adenoma) and Stromal Metaplasia 123

### Chapter 7
Hyperplasia 126

- [7.1] Incidence 127
- [7.2] Etiology 127
- [7.3] Pathogenesis 127
- [7.4] Clinical Features 128
- [7.5] Usual Nodular Epithelial and Stromal Hyperplasia 129
- [7.6] Basal Cell Hyperplasia 140
- [7.7] Cribriform Hyperplasia 144
- [7.8] Mesonephric Remnant Hyperplasia 145
- [7.9] Verumontanum Mucosal Gland Hyperplasia 147

### Chapter 8
Atypical Adenomatous Hyperplasia (Adenosis) 154

- [8.1] Atypical Adenomatous Hyperplasia (Adenosis) 155
- [8.2] Sclerosing Adenosis 162

### Chapter 9
Unusual Benign Conditions 166

- [8.1] Pigment Disorders: Melanosis, Blue Nevus, and Ochronosis 167
- [8.2] Amyloid in the Prostate 169
- [8.3] Collagenous Spherulosis 169
- [8.4] Postoperative Spindle Cell Nodule 170
- [8.5] Endometriosis 171
- [8.6] Extramedullary Hematopoiesis 171
- [8.7] Teratoma 171
- [8.8] Cowper’s Glands 172

### PROSTATE PATHOLOGY
CHAPTER 10
Pseudoneoplastic Lesions 176
[10.1] Pseudoneoplastic Lesions of Prostate 177
[10.2] Pseudoneoplastic Lesions of Extraprostatic Tissues 177

CHAPTER 11
Prostatic Intraepithelial Neoplasia 182
[11.2] Clinical Presentation 183
[11.3] Incidence of PIN in Core Needle Biopsies 184
[11.4] Incidence of High-Grade PIN in TURP Chips and Simple (Open) Prostatectomies 184
[11.5] Incidence of High-Grade PIN in Whole Prostate Glands 185
[11.6] Histologic Diagnosis of PIN 186
[11.7] Low-Grade PIN 186
[11.8] High-Grade PIN 188
[11.9] Follow-up and Clinical Management of High-Grade PIN 203
[11.10] PIN Reporting 205
[11.11] PIN as Precursor 205

CHAPTER 12
Focal Glandular Atypia 218
[12.1] FGA in Needle Biopsy 219
[12.2] FGA in TURP Chips and Simple Prostatectomy Specimens 224

CHAPTER 13
Clinical Aspects of Prostatic Carcinoma, With Histopathologic Correlations 226
[13.1] Etiology 231
[13.2] Clinical Presentation 234
[13.3] Natural History and Mortality 241
[13.4] Treatment 245

CHAPTER 14
Adenocarcinoma 258
[14.2] Diagnosis of Adenocarcinoma in Needle Core Biopsy 275
[14.3] Diagnosis of Adenocarcinoma in Transurethral Resections and Open Prostatectomies 289
[14.4] Diagnosis of Adenocarcinoma in Radical Prostatectomy Specimens 294
[14.5] Diagnosis of Prostatic Adenocarcinoma in Locally Advanced and Metastatic Disease 311

CHAPTER 15
Grading of Prostatic Carcinoma 338
[15.1] History 339
[15.2] World Health Organization (Mostofi) System 340
[15.3] Gleason System 340
[15.4] Grading in Metastatic Deposits 355
[15.5] Grading After Radiation and Hormonal Therapy 355
[15.6] Grade Progression 356
[15.7] Prognosis and Grade 356

CHAPTER 16
Staging of Prostatic Carcinoma 376
[16.1] TNM AJCC/UICC Staging Classification 377
[16.2] Clinical Staging 378
[16.3] Pathologic TNM Staging 379
[16.4] Pretreatment Models of Pathologic Stage 381
[16.5] Stage Relationships with Pathologic Findings 382
[16.6] Stage and Patient Outcome 382
[16.7] Experimental Staging Procedures 384
[16.8] Reporting of Pathologic Stage 385

CHAPTER 17
Variants of Prostatic Carcinoma 390
[17.1] Prostatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma 391
[17.2] Mucinous (Colloid) Adenocarcinoma 400
[17.3] Signet-Ring Carcinoma 403
[17.4] Adenosquamous and Squamous Carcinomas 406
[17.5] Basaloid and Adenoid Cystic “Carcinomas” 408
[17.6] Transitional Cell (Urothelial) Carcinoma 410
[17.7] Small Cell Carcinoma 414
[17.8] Sarcomatoid Carcinoma (Carcinosarcoma) 419
[17.9] Others 422

CHAPTER 18
Unusual Prostatic Neoplasms 430
[18.1] Adenomas 431
[18.2] Soft Tissue (Stromal) Tumors 432
[18.3] Hematolymphoid Neoplasms 441
[18.4] Miscellaneous Neoplasms 446
[18.5] Secondary Neoplasms 446
## Chapter 19
### Treatment Effects 456
- **19.1** Surgery 457
- **19.2** Hormonal Therapy 457
- **19.3** Radiation Therapy 464
- **19.4** Chemotherapy 468
- **19.5** Miscellaneous Therapies 469
- **19.6** Medical Therapy for BPH 469
- **19.7** Minimally Invasive Therapy for BPH 469
- **19.8** Experimental Prostate Cancer Therapy 470

## Chapter 20
### Malignant Neoplasms Mistaken for Benign Conditions 478

## Chapter 21
### Molecular Biology of Human Prostatic Carcinoma: Clinical and Pathologic Implications 480
- **21.1** DNA Content (Ploidy) 481
- **21.2** Chromosomal Alterations 482
- **21.3** Tumor Suppressor Genes 487
- **21.4** Oncogenes 489
- **21.5** Androgen Receptor 490
- **21.6** DNA Methylation 491
- **21.7** Cell Proliferation and Cell Death (Apoptosis) 491
- **21.8** Gene Expression Profiling and Proteomics 494

## Chapter 22
### Seminal Vesicles 506
- **22.1** Embryology and Development 507
- **22.2** Normal Anatomy 507
- **22.3** Cysts 511
- **22.4** Inflammation and Infection 512
- **22.5** Calcification and Calculi 512
- **22.6** Amyloid Deposits 512
- **22.7** Hyperplasia 513
- **22.8** Primary Benign Neoplasms 513
- **22.9** Primary Neoplasms of Indeterminate (or Low) Malignant Potential 515
- **22.10** Primary Malignant Neoplasms 515
- **22.11** Secondary Neoplasms 516

## Chapter 23
### Prostatic Urethra 522
- **23.1** Congenital Anomalies 523
- **23.2** Urethritis and Infection 524
- **23.3** Infarcts and Fibrosis 525
- **23.4** Urothelial Metaplasias 526
- **23.5** Prostatic Urethral Epithelial Polyps 530
- **23.6** Urothelial Hyperplasia 531
- **23.7** Benign Neoplasms 531
- **23.8** Dysplasia 532
- **23.9** Malignant Neoplasms 533

## Index 540
No longer. Prostate cancer is now the most common noncutaneous malignancy diagnosed in men in the United States. Worldwide it is the third most common male cancer. Prostate diseases are common afflictions of men: clinical prostatitis and benign prostate hyperplasia (BPH) are especially prevalent disorders. In the last 15 years, due in part to demographic shifts and public awareness, and also to widespread clinical use of serum prostate specific antigen in efforts to detect prostate cancer early, there has been an astonishing increase in the number of prostate needle biopsies performed to assess for prostate cancer presence. Indeed, it is estimated that in 2002 some 750,000 prostate needle biopsies were performed in the United States. In this context the concept for a genuinely comprehensive book on pathology of the prostate originated.

This book presents a practical histopathologic approach to diagnosis of prostatic disease. It also should provide a ready repository of information on prostatic diseases. We hope it will prove useful for practicing pathologists, pathology residents and fellows, urologists and genitourinary oncologists, radiologists, and clinicians and researchers interested in diseases of the prostate. The coverage extends from basic anatomy throughout embryology and developmental diseases through tissue sampling considerations, to the diagnosis of benign and malignant diseases (both common and uncommon) in the prostate. We explore diagnosis of prostatic disease in all tissue sample types, including fine needle aspirates (special thanks to Richard M. DeMay, MD), needle core biopsy, transurethrally resected prostatic chips, open (simple) prostatectomy tissues, radical prostatectomy tissue, and metastatic prostatic cancer samples. The emphasis in the book is on surgical pathology diagnosis and differential diagnosis, using gold standard H&E-stained sections as the foundation for diagnosis. As such, the book contains many hundreds of H&E images, in an effort to portray the diversity, heterogeneity, and spectrum of disease within the prostate gland. Particular attention has been paid throughout the book to pseudoneoplastic and pseudobenign conditions, which are frequently misdiagnosed but infrequently discussed adequately in pathology texts. Clinical presentations, gross findings, and the role of special studies, including relevant molecular biologic and genetic testing, are all integrated into the discussion of each disease entity. And while few molecular genetic tests are currently used in the diagnosis or prognostic stratification of prostate diseases, the useful possibilities of molecular medicine will be felt within the book; indeed, a full chapter (Chapter 21) discusses the molecular biology of prostate cancer.

Readers learn in many different ways, so the presentation comprises images, text, figures, quick reference tables and data-rich, larger tables. Quick reference tables allow for capture, at a glance, of essential facts—the book is "prehighlighted" in a very real sense. The larger tables are designed to satisfy those want more about specific studies culled from the world literature on specific diseases. We hope the book will be a resource for "reference mining": a compendium of key references from all of the last century, and also for the years 2000-2003 of the new. Thus, both classical, historical papers, and the most recent, important publications are gathered (alphabetically) at the end of each chapter. Reference updating finally stopped only in February of 2003, one month prior to going to print. The ASCP Press deserves real praise for this often overlooked commitment to currency. We were able to incorporate numerous references from the year 2002, and several from the year of publication itself. We sought to impart the latest diagnostic information, including typing, Gleason grading, and staging of prostate cancer.

We will have succeeded when the book serves as an asset in the daily practice of diagnostic surgical pathology of the prostate, and again when it serves as the necessary consolidated source for otherwise difficult-to-find knowledge on the many diseases that affect the human prostate gland.

Peter A. Humphrey, Author

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