

### Preeti Sharma

MBBS, MD (Pathology),  
Senior Resident,  
Department of Pathology,  
Vardhman Mahavir  
Medical College and  
Safdarjung Hospital, New  
Delhi-110029, India.

**E-mail Id:** preetisharma  
261189@gmail.com

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## Book Review: Upcoming Book Release!

**Book:** Textbook of Pathology for MBBS (Volume I and II)

**Authors:** Ashish Kumar Mandal, Shramana Choudhary

**Edited by:** Ashish Kumar Mandal

**Edition:** Second edition

**Publisher:** Avichal Publishing Company; New Delhi

A sea change has occurred in the field of pathology over the past several years. Evolution from a rather narrow discipline mainly concerned with the morphologic expression of disease at the gross and light microscopic level to one encompassing a wider view of how cells and tissues react at the molecular, genetic and immunologic levels is rather fascinating.

In over 1100 pages, this book provides a comprehensive review of pathology. This comprehensive two-volume text consists of 43 chapters grouped into four parts titled: General pathology, hematology, systemic pathology and blood banking. The first section deals with cellular aspects of malignant transformation and related cell biology, such as cell cycle regulation or apoptosis; genetic aspects of cell function and growth; oncogenes; and signal transduction. The second section deals with haematological diseases encompassing anemias, leukemias, lymphomas, infectious diseases and platelet-coagulation disorders. The third section is a mixed bag of neoplastic and non-neoplastic pathologies subdivided as organ systems. Lastly, blood banking and transfusion medicine has been lucidly covered in the last chapter.

With separate chapters devoted to basic general pathology and individual organ systems, this book is primarily oriented to the needs of the medical student, although it would be a valuable addition to the library of the pathology resident and practicing pathologist. In my opinion, its strength lies in the early chapters covering such topics as the basic cellular, molecular and genetic mechanisms of cell injury and cell death. Knowledge of the ubiquitous role of apoptosis, for example, and how it is triggered in a variety of conditions, is difficult to acquire by relying only on heavy text and journal review articles. The textbook retains all the major features of the previous edition, but there is no doubt that the material to a great extent has been revised and updated. While most pathology textbooks mention western epidemiological data, incorporation of Indian statistical data is one of the many highlights of this book. Furthermore, latest developments such as necroptosis and autophagy, to name a few are explained in depth in the new edition.

Although there is a good amount of text in the book but it is not a textbook in the strict sense of the term. The book gives the readers the essence without the detailed descriptive narrative of a textbook. The chapters deal with the subject in a lucid form, giving the reader the principal facts that are easy to read and remember. The text has been laid out in an aesthetically pleasing manner and is organized in a student-friendly manner. It is especially convenient that the text is in outline format with "bullets", allowing one to quickly grasp the most important points. A list of "must know" and "good to know" topics makes the life of an undergraduate pathology student easier.

Pathology is a science that depends a lot on images and cannot be learnt without having seen these images. In that sense, it is a visual science. Understanding this need, the author has taken great efforts to include a lot of high-quality colour

pictures and hand drawn illustrations. Excellent high-quality photographs have been generously sprinkled throughout the book. The book would make a lasting visual impact on the reader and this aspect definitely enhances the value of the book.

The authorshavekept in mind the needs of today's medical graduate students and medical practitioners. They seem to have studied the undergraduate and post-graduate curriculum and have taken care that topics prescribed in the guidelines are included in the book. Furthermore, an add-on in this edition is the "ENTRANCE EXAM KNOWLEDGE". This addition makes the book a must read for all the MBBS students who are aiming for PG entrance exams.

Although there are currently many textbooks of pathology, this one in particular provides a unique point of view and deserves to be included in the library of each pathologist.

Flaws? No major one that I could spot. The fact that the 2nd edition of this volume appeared just 4 years after the 1st is an eloquent testimony of its success. It has rapidly become a favourite among under-graduate students, residents, general and specialized pathologists. Ease of use in daily diagnostic practice, the quality of the information, and the support of excellent quality and well-chosen images have contributed to its success. All this has even improved in the 2nd edition.

The book is a delight for its aesthetics of production and also for the quality of photographs.

It is an invaluable tool, which should be within reach right next to the microscope.

For students and intellectually curious pathologists-  
**Highly recommended!**