of clues involving the subcutaneous fat. A glossary of terms and a brief index are also included.

This book is easy reading and can be completed in a few hours. I would recommend reading it in its entirety or in sections (epidermis, dermis, subcutaneous fat) rather than using it as a reference volume. After all, if one does not recognize the clue, it is unlikely that the reference value of the book will be utilized.

Overall, the book is well written and well illustrated. The clues appeal to the detective in each of us and challenge us to solve the mysteries of dermatopathology.

Loren E. Golitz
Denver, Colorado

---


Cutaneous Adnexal Tumors: A Guide to Pathologic Diagnosis is described in the preface as a "brief compendium" that is intended as a diagnostic tool for pathologists. The book is written by two outstanding pathologists and is published by the American Society of Clinical Pathologists Press. Because the two other major monographs on adnexal tumors are written by dermatopathologists with dermatology backgrounds, this book offers a different perspective of adnexal tumors.

The book is organized into five chapters: sweat gland tumors, sebaceous gland tumors, hair follicle tumors, Merkel cell carcinoma, and a chapter on differential diagnosis of cutaneous adnexal tumors. The microscopic photographs with the exception of the electron photomicrographs are all in color and are grouped at the end of each chapter. Although this format reduces the cost of producing color photographs, it inherently makes correlation of the text with the photographs an inconvenient process. The quality of the microscopic photographs are outstanding in terms of selection and technical quality. Most photographs have been taken or cropped into a square format. One or two clinical photographs of most adnexal tumors are also included at the end of each chapter.

In addition to the beautiful design and illustrations, the text is superbly written in a concise fashion and the approach to the diagnosis of adnexal tumors is pragmatic. The authors occasionally interject their personal perspective on individual tumors based on their extensive experience. Most interesting was the authors continued correlation of breast tumors with corresponding apocrine sweat gland tumors, a point of view not typically found in books written by dermatologists. The strong suit of this book is the informative discussion of immunoperoxidase techniques for the diagnosis of adnexal tumors. These are sometimes presented in algorithms that I found to be excellent in their organization. Although one might argue the inclusion of Merkel cell carcinoma in a book on adnexal neoplasms, the discussion and diagnosis of Merkel cell carcinoma was so comprehensive and outstanding that it markedly added to the value of this book.

Although the book is meant to be a "brief compendium" and not comprehensive in its scope, I was disappointed that brief sections on normal embryology and anatomy were not included. Because adnexal tumors are outgrowths of cells that are caricatures of normal anatomic structures, it was disappointing that no effort was made to correlate the two, a concept that I find useful for the teaching and diagnosis of adnexal tumors. I was also disappointed that the discussions of some adnexal tumors were incomplete. For example, in the section on syringomas, the authors failed to record the association of clear cell syringomas with diabetes mellitus and neglected to mention histologic variants such as syringomas that demonstrate suppurative foci of keratinization reminiscent of milia. Although the book is intended for pathologists, the discussion of treatment options are often limited or incomplete from a dermatologist's standpoint.

In summary, this is an outstanding book on adnexal tumors that is well-written and beautifully illustrated. It reaches its intended audience of pathologists but its audience should include dermatologists as well. Practicing dermatologists and dermatology residents will appreciate the superb color photomicrographs and dermatopathologists will demonstrate the excellent algorithmic approach to the immunoperoxidase diagnosis of adnexal tumors and small round cell cutaneous tumors.

James E. Fitzpatrick
Aurora, Colorado