

# Gynecologic and Urologic Pathology

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Similarities, Differences and Challenges

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Edited by Maria Rosaria Raspollini , Antonio Lopez-Beltran  
Frontmatter  
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# Gynecologic and Urologic Pathology

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Similarities, Differences and Challenges

Edited by

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## Foreword

The European Society of Pathology (ESP) is now among the most recognized scientific societies in pathology worldwide, gathering more than 3000 members from more than 27 countries. Among the most powerful driving forces of our society are the working groups. Each of them coalesces all the human medical strength of a subspeciality under the lead of a renowned pathologist. The Uropathology and Gynecopathology Working Groups are among our most dynamic, chaired respectively by Antonio Lopez-Beltran and Maria Rosaria Raspollini.

Both have joined their dynamisms and efforts to propose a textbook with an original approach combining in each chapter the pathology of the female and the male urogenital tracts. This

book will be surely a landmark, useful to pathologists working in the fields of gynecologic and/or urologic pathology.

For several years, the European Pathology Congress has favored joint sessions between working groups on a common theme. These sessions are generally very successful, and in a way, the concept of this textbook gives credit to this organization. This joint effort by two of our most dynamic working group chairs with a long list of well-known contributors was surely a challenge and we, at ESP, are proud that they have succeeded in this effort.

*Pierre Bedossa*  
*Former President of the European Society of Pathology*  
*Chair of the ESP Working Group*

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## Preface

Female and male urogenital tracts have a common embryonic development until the moment at which sexual organ differentiation begins. The diverse systemic hormonal environment in the developing fetus determines and modulates the appearance of external and internal genitalia and their functions. Several genetic and epigenetic factors and disorders may alter normal development, predisposing to the appearance of a pathologic function and phenotype, and the development of benign as well as malignant tumors.

Because of common ancestors, the pathologies of the urogenital tract in females and males present many similarities that can challenge the pathologist for an appropriate diagnosis and classification of the disorder.

This book is a comprehensive interdisciplinary compilation of the most common pathologic entities seen in the female and male urogenital tracts, and is the result of a joint effort by well-known gynecopathologists, uropathologists, dermatopathologists, and embryology experts to focus on gynecologic and genitourinary tract pathologic similarities and differences. This textbook does not deal with all the topics described in more classical uropathology and gynecologic tract pathology books; it aims to close the gap represented by the lack of bridges between urologic and gynecologic pathologists who handle these kinds of disorders in everyday practice.

The chapters focus on the similarities between the male and female genital tract pathologic entities, but also highlight the differences in histopathology, genetics, incidence, and clinical signs, and emphasize the differential diagnosis of tumors with similar histologic features in the two genders.

The idea for this textbook comes from the observation that in females and the males there are respective organs, such as the ovary and testis, and the vulva and penis, where the tumors with strong morphologic similarities may have similar (e.g. epithelial tumors) or opposite (e.g. teratomas) clinical behavior. In addition, this textbook deals with urinary tract tumors, such as urethral malignancies, for which, at time of differential diagnosis, the pathologist should keep always in mind the

gender of the patient to properly evaluate the histologic findings. Some of the entities might be present in both genders and in both the urologic passages and in the gynecologic tract, such as the uncommon micropapillary variant of urothelial tumors and the micropapillary tumors seen in different gynecologic locations.

The chapters also present the normal-appearing tissue seen in ectopic sites that are usually related to gender and may reflect embryologically similar tumors, but with paradoxical differences in incidence and significance (e.g. prostate carcinoma vs. Schene's gland carcinoma). This book is not only an analysis of the similarities and differences in male and female pathologic entities with reference to incidence, histologic features, signs and prognosis, it is also a helpful tool for residents and fellow pathologists and for consultants who can gain experience in the pathologic diagnostic rationale by comparing similar morphologic features in different unrelated tumors such as the carcinoma of the prostate or breast.

We are deeply in debt to the distinguished panel of experts who have collectively contributed to achieve the aims of this book with personal effort, making this a unique piece in the literature with interesting and current chapters.

We also thank Cambridge University Press for supporting our idea, and setting up graphics to make the text clear and easy to read.

Maria Rosaria Raspollini  
 Antonio Lopez-Beltran

### Editors' note

Three colors are used throughout this volume to guide the reader. The teal blue color and the Mars symbol (♂) denotes chapters, sections, tables, and figures specific to the male. The purple color and the Venus symbol (♀) denotes chapters, sections, tables, and figures specific to the female. The orange color and the use of both symbols (♂♀) illustrates that this item applies to both males and females.

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