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978-0-521-68358-6 - Surgical Pathology Revision: Second Edition

David Lowe

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## Surgical pathology revision

### Second edition

This very popular revision guide, originally published in its first edition as *General Pathology Vivas*, is packed with useful information in A–Z format, covering the essentials of pathology for examination candidates. This accessible and informative text will help to dispel some of the anxiety facing those studying for their viva or oral examinations. It has been written by a pathologist with many years of experience teaching pathology. This new edition includes many updated and new entries to provide even broader coverage of the key topics and concepts that are an essential prerequisite to understanding basic surgical pathology. This concise account is aimed at undergraduate medical candidates and for the oral parts of the MRCS, MRCP and FRCOG examinations. It will also serve as a valuable aide memoire for the junior surgeon or doctor at all levels of experience, especially those training junior staff themselves.

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DAVID LOWE

Harley Street, London



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# Preface

Examination candidates appear for viva examinations in varying degrees of terror. In many cases the candidates obviously know the facts but have difficulty recalling them – they have no pegs to hang their ideas on. In some cases, they can recall but launch into their responses with little thought of classification or prioritisation. Some candidates have never sat a viva examination before, and it shows.

This book is intended for all of these candidates when they sit an examination that is on, or involves, surgical pathology. The construction of the entries follow that used by most examining bodies in their viva examinations. The topic is introduced by a relatively broad question to settle the candidate down, then more searching questions are asked to sound the depths of their knowledge. Questions on classification are popular as they show whether the candidate is able to think clearly and logically, and give relatively common examples early and keep the rarer ones until later. Another popular form is to make a question justify itself: ‘Why should a surgeon know something about gout?’ neatly establishes that a surgical candidate should be able to answer the question even though he or she had thought that gout was a medical topic.

Some of the entries ask questions and give responses that would almost certainly be considered too difficult for most junior qualifying examinations. These have been included for those candidates who like to leave a little leeway between just

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passing the examination and passing comfortably.  
Conversely, though the entries cover most of the likely topics asked on general pathology, the examiners may always come up with something new relevant to their own specialism. “Unseen” questions can still be tackled along the standard lines of the entries here: classify, give examples with the commonest first, discuss the complications.

The entries are arranged alphabetically so that topics can be found easily. As a consequence, the topics are usefully randomised, as the questions in a typical viva would be. I hope that the book will make a nerve-racking experience more bearable.

David Lowe  
London, 2006