

Non-Neoplastic Pathology of the Gastrointestinal Tract

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Edited by Roger M. Feakins
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Non-Neoplastic Pathology of the Gastrointestinal Tract

A Practical Guide to Biopsy Diagnosis

Edited by

Roger M. Feakins

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that they plan to use.

This book is dedicated to all who work for a better, more humane, and healthier planet, regardless of their background or beliefs. This includes Kay, David, and Shaun, whose commitment to the improvement of the world around them is unquestionable and whose loyalty and support are invaluable. This book is also dedicated to the late John Donoghue of Youghal, whose unusually consistent brand of kindness and open-mindedness continues to inspire us many years after his departure.

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[More Information](#)

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	ix
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	x
<i>List of Contributors</i>	xi
<hr/>	
1 The Value of Gastrointestinal Biopsy	1
Constantinos Parisinos, Vinay Sehgal, and Gareth Parkes	
2 Gastrointestinal Involvement by Systemic Disease	13
Adrian C. Bateman	
3 Radiation and the Gastrointestinal Tract	30
Roger M. Feakins	
4 Transplantation, Immunodeficiency, and Immunosuppression	52
Newton Wong	
5 Drug-Induced Gastrointestinal Disease	65
Aoife McCarthy and Kieran Sheahan	
6 Gastrointestinal Ischemia and Vascular Disorders	84
Romulo Celli and Xuchen Zhang	
7 Paediatric Conditions	102
Paula Borralho-Nunes	
8 Gastrointestinal Dysplasia	116
Magali Svrcek and Roger M. Feakins	
9 Normal Oesophageal, Gastric and Duodenal Mucosa	131
Roger M. Feakins	
10 Histology of Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease and Barrett's Oesophagus	157
Naziheh Assarzagdegan and Maryam Kherad Pezhouh	
11 Infections of the Oesophagus and Rare Forms of Oesophagitis	169
Shaun V. Walsh	
12 Assessment of Gastric Biopsies	179
Tim Andrews and Fiona Campbell	
13 Types of Gastritis	186
Tim Andrews and Fiona Campbell	
14 Duodenitis	206
Lindsey Clarke and Roger M. Feakins	
15 Coeliac Disease	215
Colan M. Ho-Yen and Fujun Chang	
16 Inflammatory Bowel Disease and the Upper Gastrointestinal Tract	236
Roger M. Feakins	
17 Normal Lower Gastrointestinal Mucosa	245
Roger M. Feakins	
18 Infectious Disorders of the Lower Gastrointestinal Tract	260
Nicole C. Panarelli	
19 Jejunitis and Ileitis	287
Karel Geboes and Anne Jouret-Mourin	
20 Microscopic Colitis	310
Maurice B. Loughrey	
21 Inflammatory Bowel Disease Diagnosis	325
Roger M. Feakins	
22 Mimics of Inflammatory Bowel Disease	357
Roger M. Feakins	
23 Complications of Inflammatory Bowel Disease	388
Roger M. Feakins	
24 Approach to Reporting Inflammatory Bowel Disease Biopsies	401
Roger M. Feakins	
25 Ileal Pouch Anal Anastomosis	410
Shaun V. Walsh and Roger M. Feakins	
26 Diverticular Disease, Mucosal Prolapse, and Related Conditions	417
Lukasz A. Adamczyk and Neil A. Shepherd	
27 Non-Neoplastic Diseases of the Anal Canal	434
Morgan Moorghen	
<hr/>	
<i>Index</i>	446

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Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

Preface

Gastrointestinal (GI) mucosal biopsies are already very common. Their number continues to increase as the average age of the population rises, GI diseases become more frequent, drug treatments diversify, and new clinicopathological entities emerge. For example, Barrett's oesophagus and inflammatory bowel disease are becoming steadily more common, while eosinophilic oesophagitis is now a routine consideration despite its relatively recent appearance on the scene.

Health care systems and governments often emphasise the importance of cancer prevention and diagnosis. However, non-neoplastic GI disease is widespread in all populations and is almost impossible to avoid.

Assessment of non-neoplastic GI biopsies can be challenging, and clinicopathological correlation is often necessary for the construction of a meaningful report. Furthermore, accurate and relevant interpretation of the microscopic appearances may be very important for optimal patient management. A simple statement that the mucosa is inflamed might be strictly 'correct' but may have little practical value. Comprehensive knowledge of the various possibilities increases the chance of a helpful report.

Nevertheless, why add another GI pathology title to the long list of impressive books that currently exists? The aim was to produce a relatively short, single-volume, reliable and well-

referenced source of established facts and new information about the interpretation of non-neoplastic biopsies.

The book starts with a chapter by gastroenterologists on the value of biopsy. The subsequent chapters deal with disorders that can affect more than one part of the GI tract, e.g. radiation damage, drug effect, systemic disease, immune suppression, vascular disorders, and dysplasia. The remaining chapters describe the features of upper and lower GI tract biopsies respectively, including normal appearances, infections, Barrett's oesophagus, gastritis, coeliac disease, inflammatory bowel disease, microscopic colitis, diverticular disease, and newer or rarer entities.

The focus is on biopsy pathology. Where relevant or informative, the book also mentions resection pathology, clinical features, and the pathology of other organs. Contributors are experienced diagnostic pathologists (and gastroenterologists) who work in the UK, various European countries, or the USA. The text is relatively concise, and there are fact sheets, practice points, tables, and many illustrations, facilitating rapid assimilation of information by the reader.

The editor and authors hope that the readers will enjoy the book, and that its contents will make a positive and significant contribution to their practice and knowledge base. Feedback to the editor (rogerfeakins@gmail.com) or publishers, whether positive or negative, is very welcome.

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Many individuals and organisations around the world have contributed significantly to the development of high-quality diagnostic histopathology, and specifically to the emergence of GI pathology as a credible specialty, over the last few decades. Those who have supported the editor and authors in the past, or continue to encourage them, are too numerous to name.

However, the editor wishes to acknowledge the unwavering enthusiasm of Neil Shepherd for the promotion of high standards. Other senior UK diagnostic GI pathologists whose strongly positive influence and selfless commitment continue to play a role include Geraint Williams, now in retirement, and the late and genuinely irreplaceable Bryan Warren. Many, many others in the UK, Europe, North America, and further afield are also at least partly responsible for the authors' enthusiasm for the subject.

Laura Lamps has been exceptionally generous with donations of good quality images that enhance the appeal of several chapters. The editor also appreciates the unconditional help and advice that many other US, UK and European pathologists offered during the process.

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