

Cambridge University Press
978-1-900-15121-4 - Gastrointestinal Polyps
Edited by Najib Y. Haboubi, Karel Geobes, Neil A. Shepherd and Ian C. Talbot
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Dedication

We dedicate this book to our colleagues in gastroenterology
and our teachers in pathology.

Gastrointestinal Polyps

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Preface

With the advent of endoscopic techniques, the gastrointestinal tract has now become more accessible to clinical investigators. Polyps are amongst the commoner lesions biopsied and/or removed at the time of gastrointestinal endoscopy. The term “Polyp” derives from the Greek for “multiple feet” (poly, many and pes, feet) or “little nipple”. In current clinical practice a polyp is defined as “*a circumscribed protrusion above the mucosa, stalked or sessile*”⁽¹⁾. The biological behaviour of a polyp relates entirely to its pathological nature; hence the importance of an accurate histological diagnosis.

There have been many advances in our understanding of the biological behaviour, clinical associations and the prevalence of gastrointestinal polyps. We believe that these justify a dedicated book on the subject. While many textbooks and atlases include them as part of gastrointestinal tumours, none have been so comprehensively devoted to the polyp as this heavily illustrated book. It is designed to be the complete companion; a bench book not only for the practising histopathologist who regularly examines oesophageal, gastric, duodenal and intestinal polyps as part of his/her daily work but also for the endoscopist who regularly biopsies them. It will aid readers in the identification of the commoner polyps. Furthermore, this book will allow the reader

to recognise related diseases and be aware of the biological behaviour of polyps without having to refer continuously to the standard textbooks in which this type of information is widely scattered.

The layout of the book has been designed sequentially to describe the commoner synonyms when appropriate, the prevalence, endoscopic/macrosopic appearances and microscopic features followed by a section on the biological behaviour and associated conditions. There is a section on treatment, if applicable, with a list of key references.

The classification is broadly modelled on the recent WHO recent classification in an attempt to reduce the potential confusion by use of differing appellations.

1. Maratka Z. In: Terminology, Definitions and Diagnostic Criteria in Digestive Endoscopy, 2nd Edition. Ed. English Version Colin-Jones DG. Pub. Normed Verlag, Bad Homburg, 1989, p27.

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November 2001

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