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# CASE FILES®

## Pathology

# 病理学案例50例

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该丛书具有以下特点:

一、形式上, 原版图书影印, 忠实展现原版图书的原汁原味, 使国内读者直接体会医学原版英文图书的叙述方式和叙述风格。

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## DEDICATION

*To my dear wife, Terri, my first and only true love.  
She encourages me each day and is my enduring inspiration.*

—ECT

*To Dr. Aubrey Hough, my chairman during residency training,  
and to Dr. Harvey Rosenberg  
who gave me my first (and only) faculty position.*

—MOU

*For those who taught me the basics of pathology:  
Sidney A. Coleman, MD, Robert Joseph Peace, MD, and Fred Shipkey, MD.*

—EU

*To Darlene, who has showed me how to once again dream of good things.*

—EJB

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Eugene C. Toy

## ❖ INTRODUCTION

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Often, the medical student will cringe at the “drudgery” of the basic science courses and see little connection between a field such as pathology and clinical problems. Clinicians, however, often wish they knew more about the basic sciences, because it is through the science that we can begin to understand the complexities of the human body and thus have rational methods of diagnosis and treatment.

Mastering the knowledge in a discipline such as pathology is a formidable task. It is even more difficult to retain this information and to recall it when the clinical setting is encountered. To accomplish this synthesis, pathology is optimally taught in the context of medical situations, and this is reinforced later during the clinical rotations. The gulf between the basic sciences and the patient arena is wide. Perhaps one way to bridge this gulf is with carefully constructed clinical cases that ask basic science-oriented questions. In an attempt to achieve this goal, we have designed a collection of patient cases to teach pathology-related points. More important, the explanations for these cases emphasize the underlying mechanisms and relate the clinical setting to the basic science data. We explore the principles rather than emphasize rote memorization.

This book is organized for versatility: to allow the student “in a rush” to go quickly through the scenarios and check the corresponding answers and to provide more detailed information for the student who wants thought-provoking explanations. The answers are arranged from simple to complex: a summary of the pertinent points, the bare answers, a clinical correlation, an approach to the pathology topic, a comprehension test at the end for reinforcement or emphasis, and a list of references for further reading. The clinical cases are arranged by system to better reflect the organization within the basic science. Finally, to encourage thinking about mechanisms and relationships, we intentionally did not primarily use a multiple-choice format at the beginning of each case. Nevertheless, several multiple-choice questions are included at the end of each scenario to reinforce concepts or introduce related topics.

## HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THIS BOOK

Each case is designed to introduce a clinically related issue and includes open-ended questions usually asking a basic science question, but at times, to break up the monotony, there will be a clinical question. The answers are organized into four different parts:

## PART I

1. **Summary**
2. A **straightforward answer** is given for each open-ended question.
3. **Clinical Correlation**—A discussion of the relevant points relating the basic science to the clinical manifestations, and perhaps introducing the student to issues such as diagnosis and treatment

## PART II

An **approach to the basic science concept** consisting of three parts:

1. **Objectives**—A listing of the two to four main principles that are critical for understanding the underlying pathology to answer the question and relate to the clinical situation
2. **Definitions of basic terminology**
3. **Discussion of topic**

## PART III

**Comprehension Questions**—Each case includes several multiple-choice questions that reinforce the material or introduce new and related concepts. Questions about the material not found in the text are explained in the answers.

## PART IV

**Pathology Pearls**—A listing of several important points, many clinically relevant, reiterated as a summation of the text and to allow for easy review, such as before an examination.

We would like to recognize a great physician, educator, administrator, colleague, and leader, Dr. Maximilian Buja, who served as Dean of the University of Texas Health Science Center–Houston Medical School from 1995 to 2003 before being appointed Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs. Dr. Buja, a pathologist, continues to contribute greatly to the pathology course at the medical school by lecturing on the basic principles of cell injury and inflammation as well as on cardiovascular pathology. He led an educational retreat in 2002 which inspired the concept for this series, joining the clinical case to the basic sciences. Dr. Buja has taught thousands of medical students and serves as a role model and mentor for many pathology residents and scientists.

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SECTION I

# Applying the Basic Sciences to Clinical Medicine

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Part 1. Approach to Learning Pathology

Part 2. Approach to Disease

Part 3. Approach to Reading



## PART 1. APPROACH TO LEARNING PATHOLOGY

Pathology is best learned by a systematic approach, first by learning the **language** of the discipline and then by understanding the **function** of the various processes. Increasingly, the understanding of cell and organ function plays an important role in the understanding of disease processes and the treatment of disease. Initially, some of the “language” must be memorized in the same way that the alphabet must be learned by rote; however, the appreciation of the way the “pathology words” are constructed requires an understanding of mechanisms, in essence, an awareness of “how things are put together and work together.”

## PART 2. APPROACH TO DISEASE

Physicians usually approach clinical situations by taking a history (asking questions), performing a physical examination, obtaining selected laboratory and imaging tests, and then formulating a diagnosis. The conglomeration of the history, physical examination, and laboratory tests is called the **clinical database**. After a diagnosis has been reached, a treatment plan is usually initiated, and the patient is followed for a clinical response. Rational understanding of disease and plans for treatment are best acquired by learning about the normal human processes on a basic science level, and likewise, being aware of how disease alters the normal physiologic processes is understood on a basic science level. In short, clinical problem solving involves three basic steps: (1) making a diagnosis, (2) initiating a therapy, and (3) monitoring the patient’s response.

## PART 3. APPROACH TO READING

There are **seven key questions** that help to stimulate the application of basic science information to the clinical setting.

1. Given histologic findings in an organ, what are the most likely clinical manifestations?
2. Given clinical symptoms, if a tissue biopsy is taken, what histologic findings are most likely to be seen?
3. Given clinical findings, if the microscopic photograph is shown, what is the most likely diagnosis?
4. Given a histologic description, what would be the most likely complication to the organ in question?
5. Given a gross description of a pathologic lesion, what is the most likely diagnosis?
6. Given autopsy findings, what is the most likely diagnosis?
7. Given histologic findings, what is the most likely explanation?



**1. Given histologic findings in an organ, what are the most likely clinical manifestations?**

This is a fundamental principle in the understanding of the discipline of pathology. The student first must understand the **normal** histologic structure in an organ in the context of its function. Then the student must be able to relate the **abnormal** histology to clinical findings, both subjective (patient complaints) and objective (physical examination findings). The organ or system is highly organized both on the gross and on the microscopic level. There also must be awareness of the mechanism that causes disruption of the normal cellular architecture.

**2. Given clinical symptoms, if a tissue biopsy is taken, what histologic findings are most likely to be seen?**

This is the converse of the first question and requires going backward from clinical manifestations to the probable disease process to probable histologic findings. The student must be able to translate the clinical picture to the cellular characteristics. This also requires being aware of what symptoms various cellular alterations will produce in the patient; for instance, some changes will be silent and not cause symptoms, whereas other changes will produce dramatic manifestations.

**3. Given clinical findings, if the microscopic pictograph is shown, what is the most likely diagnosis?**

This sequence of analysis is very similar to the practice of “real-life” medicine, the role of the pathologist. The clinical history and physical examination are critical to putting the pathologic findings into context. For instance, if endometrial curettings are sent to the pathologist and on microscopy reveal crowded, complex glands, abnormal epithelial nuclei, and loss of nuclear polarity, the pathologist may render a diagnosis of cancer. However, when the information is given that the patient is 6-week pregnant, the diagnosis of an Arias-Stella reaction is made, an expected finding in the endometrium in light of the human chorionic gonadotropin levels of pregnancy. The next logical step is to propose a treatment. Thus, the student should be able to shift back and forth between the basic science and the clinical areas

*Pathophysiology ↔ Histologic findings ↔ Diagnoses ↔ Treatment*

**4. Given a histologic description, what would be the most likely complication to the organ in question?**

This analysis requires that the student be able to relate the histologic findings of one organ to a disease process and then extrapolate the probable changes to another organ. The student should become proficient at working back and forth between histologic changes and clinical findings and disease processes. The best way to acquire this skill is to think in terms of mechanisms of disease and not just memorize key words. It is the understanding of the underlying pathophysiology of the disease that allows the physician-scientist to make rational predictions of the natural history of a disease process.