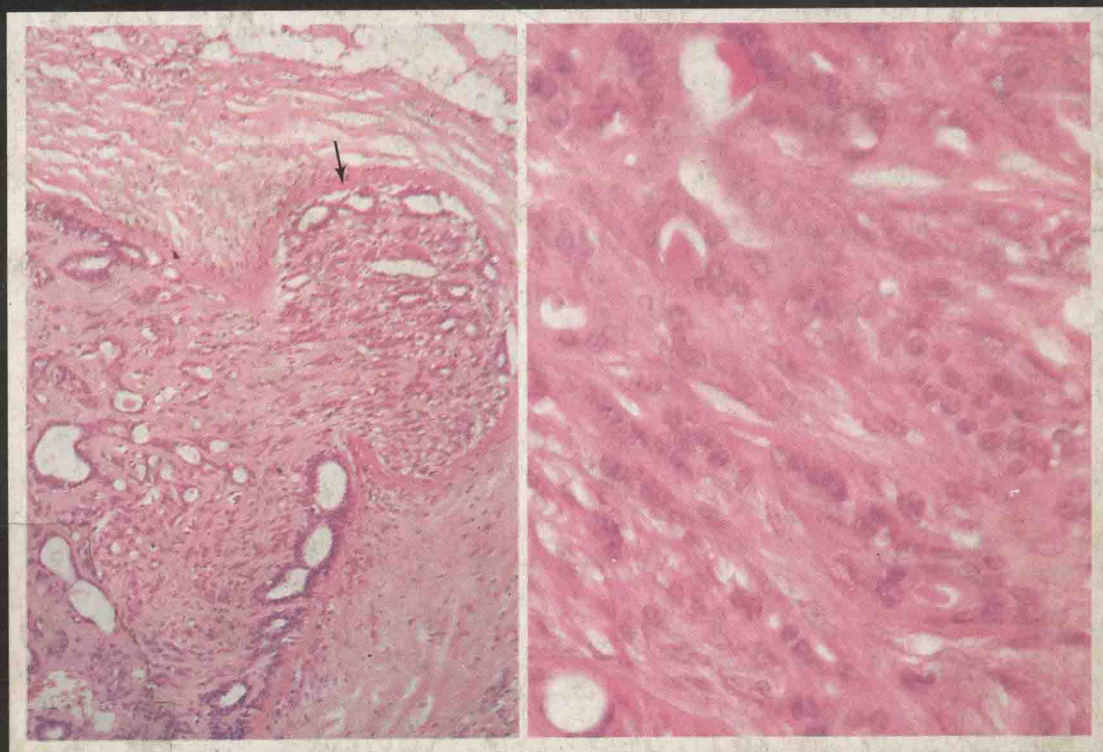


Folke Linell and Otto Ljungberg

ATLAS OF  
Breast  
Pathology



Munksgaard

Folke Linell and Otto Ljungberg

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Munksgaard

Atlas of Breast Pathology

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1st edition, 1st printing

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Cover by Lars Thorsen

Typesetting: Satsform, Åbyhøj

Reproduction: Odense Reproduktion, Odense

Printed in Denmark 1984 by Th. Laursen, Tønder

ISBN 87-16-09636-3

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Cover by Lars Thorsen

Typesetting: Satsform, Åbyhøj

Reproduction: Odense Reproduktion, Odense

Printed in Denmark 1984 by Th. Laursen, Tønder

ISBN 87-16-09636-3

# Acknowledgments

A work as this is impossible to carry out without close cooperation with clinical colleagues. The authors would like especially to thank Drs. Ingvar Andersson and Baldur Sigfusson, Department of Radiology, Drs. Ulf Ljungkvist, Knut Aspegren and Björn Sjöström, Department of Surgery, Drs. Björn Palmer and Anita Ringberg, Department of Plastic Surgery, Drs. Stig Borgström, Per Langeland and Torsten Landberg, Department of Oncology and Drs. Karin Lindholm and Lennart Bondeson, Department of Clinical Cytology. We also thank our colleagues at the Department of Pathology. Special thanks goes to the pathologists from other hospitals, who have contributed interesting cases. These are Drs. Kersti Hedberg, Kristianstad, Görel Östberg, Halmstad, Sweden, William and Henrik Kiaer, Svend-

borg, Denmark and Drs. Willebrand and V. Swaen, Maastricht, the Netherlands.

When this book was written and the pictures collected Dr. Fritz Rank, Copenhagen, read all the text and carefully scrutinized the photographs. For his critical remarks and positive suggestions for improvements we thank him warmly.

We also thank Mrs. Eva Minton, Monica Wetter, Lena Lundh and Leni Grubb, who have, with great skill, performed most of the histotechnical work, as well as Bengt Wängelin for invaluable photographic assistance. We are particularly indebted to Mrs. Inger Ahlström for the excellent typing and retyping of our manuscripts.

*Folke Linell / Otto Ljungberg*



# Preface

The purpose of this color atlas is primarily to serve as a help in the interpretation of breast lesions. It is principally aimed at the experienced pathologist, specialized in the field of breast pathology as well as the all-round pathologist, who receives a rather large proportion of breast specimens in his daily diagnostic practice. The book may also be of value as supplementary reading for medical students. We hope that it may be of interest to clinical colleagues working within other disciplines of medicine, such as diagnostic radiology, surgery and oncology, who, in their daily medical practice, are responsible for the management of patients with breast lesions. Hopefully, the book, in this way, may deepen the understanding between pathologists and their clinical colleagues.

Breast lesions represent a very important section of surgical pathology. Approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  of all female carcinomas are localized in the breasts. In addition, the breasts may develop a number of lesions which are important mainly in the differential diagnosis from carcinoma.

Mammography and other new developments of clinical diagnostic means have increased our knowledge of breast pathology immensely during the last 20 years. Great interest has been focused on the small carcinomas and their early, precancerous stages. These lesions have previously been ignored or considered of little clinical importance. Formerly when only large carcinomas were diagnosed by the one available method, palpation, the histologic diagnostics were very easy, but nowadays the early stages of

carcinoma pose large problems to the pathologists.

Today, excision of a breast tumor not only aims at a histopathologic diagnosis of the lesion. The excised tumor is also used for assay of hormone receptor content and analysis of DNA-profiles, factors which may be of prognostic significance. The techniques employed for these studies are not dealt with in this book.

It should be stressed that fine needle aspiration biopsy has considerably contributed to the recent progress in the preoperative clinical diagnosis of breast tumors. The cytologic diagnosis of aspirated material from breast lesions, however, does not fall within the scope of this book. Excellent recent books in this field are available (see additional reading).

In recent years, a large number of joint trials for breast cancer therapy have been started. Such trials are of little value unless the principles for histopathologic diagnosis and classification used are uniform. We hope that this book will contribute towards attaining this uniformity.

We have been engaged in surgical pathology for 40 years and 20 years, respectively, and during the last 7-8 years we have personally handled all breast specimens at a large hospital. This material comprises more than 1000 carcinomas and a great number of breast specimens with other lesions. In addition, we have acquired valuable experience from specimens sent in for evaluation from the laboratories of other hospitals. The results found in a 3-year material of breast carcinomas have been published previ-

ously (Linell, Ljungberg & Andersson 1980). Some new concepts were presented in that publication. In the present atlas these concepts are related to other, current classifications and opinions. For an easier comparison we have in the atlas given in brackets the WHO nomenclature in the few cases, where it differs from our designations. Thus, the atlas may also be useful to readers who do not fully agree with our views. In the atlas we also present some new, original observations, not previously published.

The present book has two main sections. One part contains a brief text survey, and the other is a series of photographic illustrations in color.

The text section contains 10 chapters.

The text chapters are by necessity very short and do not enter into deep discussions. They aim to give a short survey of the lesions presented in the second part of the book, the color atlas. In the color atlas we have endeavored to collect most of the information in the text opposite the pictures. It is our hope that the atlas can be used as a benchbook in which the diagnosing pathologist can easily find examples (often many) of different lesions.

The lesions are presented in the same order as in the preceding text section. In order to

facilitate the practical use of the book the chapters in this part have been divided into several subtitles. The legends to the pictures have been placed on the page opposite the picture. The text and the photographs have been selected not only to demonstrate characteristic "textbook" cases, but also – within the space limits given – to illustrate variations in histologic and cytologic features. These variations are frequently encountered in pathologic diagnostic work and often represent diagnostic pitfalls. We show many lesions at low magnification because it is frequently of major importance for a correct diagnosis to get a picture of the entire lesion. In such cases details of special interest are illustrated at higher magnification in neighboring pictures.

Among the variants described are some curious cases about which our knowledge is limited. The intention of such descriptions is to direct the spotlight on rare but distinct cases in the hope that other pathologists may discover additional examples, thus providing us with more information about the nature of these lesions.

The bibliography does not claim to be complete but should serve as an introduction to the literature.

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