

TUMORS
of the
EXTRA-ADRENAL
PARAGANGLION SYSTEM
(INCLUDING CHEMORECEPTORS)



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ATLAS OF TUMOR PATHOLOGY

Second Series

Fascicle 9

TUMORS OF THE EXTRA-ADRENAL PARAGANGLION SYSTEM (INCLUDING CHEMORECEPTORS)

by

GEORGE G. GLENNER, M. D.

Chief, Section on Molecular Pathology

Laboratory of Experimental Pathology

National Institute of Arthritis, Metabolism, and Digestive Diseases

National Institutes of Health

Bethesda, Maryland 20014

and

PHILIP M. GRIMLEY, M. D.

Head of Ultrastructural Pathology Section

Laboratory of Pathology

National Cancer Institute

National Institutes of Health

Bethesda, Maryland 20014

Present Address

Director, Clinical Pathology Laboratories

Division of Laboratories and Research

State of New York Department of Health

Albany, New York 12201

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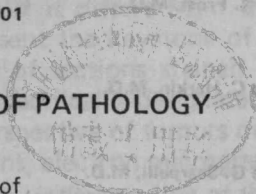
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EDITOR

HARLAN I. FIRMINGER, M. D.

Professor, Department of Pathology
University of Maryland School of Medicine
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

and

Scientist Associate, Universities Associated for
Research and Education in Pathology, Inc.
9650 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, Maryland 20014

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The Atlas of Tumor Pathology was originated by the Committee on Pathology of the National Academy of Sciences—National Research Council in 1947. The form of the Atlas became the brainchild of the Subcommittee on Oncology and was shepherded by a succession of editors. It was supported by a long list of agencies; many of the illustrations were made by the Medical Illustration Service of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology; the type was set by the Government Printing Office; and the final printing was made by the press at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. The American Registry of Pathology purchased the fascicles from the Government Printing Office and sold them at cost, plus a small handling and shipping charge. Over a period of 20 years, 15,000 copies each of 40 fascicles were produced. They provided a system of nomenclature and set standards for histologic diagnosis which received worldwide acclaim. Private contributions by almost 600 pathologists helped to finance the compilation of an index by The Williams & Wilkins Company to complete the original Atlas.

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This second series of the Atlas of Tumor Pathology is not intended as a second edition of the first Atlas and, in general, there will be variation in authorship. The basic purpose remains unchanged in providing an Atlas setting standards of diagnosis and terminology. Throughout this new series, the term chosen by the Committee on Tumor Nomenclature of the International Union Against Cancer is shown by an asterisk if it corresponds to the authors' choice, or as a synonym in bold print if it differs from the authors' heading. Hematoxylin and eosin stained sections still represent the keystone of histologic diagnosis; therefore, most of the photomicrographs will be of sections stained by this technic, and only sections prepared by other technics will be specifically designated in the legends. It is hoped that in many of the new series a broader perspective of tumors may be offered by the inclusion of special stains, histochemical illustrations, electron micrographs, data on biologic behavior, and other pertinent information for better understanding of the disease.

The format of the new series is changed in order to allow better correlation of the illustrations with the text, and a more substantial cover is provided. An index will be included in each fascicle.

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Harlan I. Firminger, M. D.

PREFACE

The extra-adrenal paraganglia constitute an extensive, multicentric organ system of which the function of only two components, the carotid and aortic paraganglia, are known with certainty. The morphologic similarities of paraganglia, both histologically and ultra-structurally, as well as the discovery of extra-adrenal paragangliomas secreting norepinephrine, indicate a common neural crest origin for the paraganglia and a similar, if not identical physiologic function at some stage in their genesis. These newer findings, we believe, allow an extension of the pioneering work of Raffaele Lattes which suggested the organization of paragangliomas and their tumors into distinct and definable systems despite their anatomic diversity. In this fascicle, we have attempted to present a system which organizes the paragangliomas into categories based upon an anatomic or embryologic relatedness. This emphasizes the similarities rather than the differences between such spatially separated tissues as, for example, the organ of Zuckerkandl and the carotid bodies. Tumors of these organs appear to have biologic activities of such a similar, although admittedly not identical, nature as to be of clinical significance.

The majority of extra-adrenal paragangliomas are benign and nonfunctional. The biologic activity of paragangliomas, however, cannot be predicted only on the basis of cellular morphology or pattern. It is often not possible, therefore, to determine whether an individual tumor is benign or whether it is secretory on the basis of its microscopic or histochemical (e.g., "chromaffin" or "nonchromaffin") characteristics. The presence in a patient of paroxysmal hypertension and increased excretion of catecholamine metabolites should alert the clinician to tumors not only of the adrenal medulla, but also of the extra-adrenal paraganglionic system. Clinical awareness of biologically functional interrelationships of tumors of the paraganglionic system has been rewarded in recent years by the recognition of what in the past might have been undiagnosed but treatable tumors. The classification we propose is not extended to those tissues or organs where evidence relating them to the paraganglia is uncertain and limited.

The relatively rich variety of tumors of the extra-adrenal paraganglionic system precludes the availability to any one author of sufficient examples of tumors from different sites and different biologic activity to demonstrate the morphologic variability of these tumors. In addition, the incomplete evaluation of cases of paragangliomas reported in the literature prevents obtaining reliable statistics from this source on the relative frequency and biologic activity of these tumors. We, therefore, wish to express our gratitude to the many pathologists who have sent us tissues and photographs to aid in the descriptive content of this fascicle.

George G. Glenner, M. D.

Philip M. Grimley, M. D.

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Dr. P. H. LeCompte has kindly given us permission to use illustrations published in the first series fascicle, "Tumors of the Carotid Body and Related Structures (Chemoreceptor System)" and Dr. R. E. Coupland of Dundee, Scotland has permitted us to modify our figure 12 from his text "The Natural History of the Chromaffin Cell." The authors wish to acknowledge a debt of gratitude to Dr. A. E. Becker, Amsterdam, Netherlands; Dr. P. Böck, Vienna, Austria; Dr. B. Hamberger, Stockholm, Sweden; Dr. D. Heath, Liverpool, England; Dr. H. Ichinose, New Orleans, La.; Dr. J. E. Leestma, Chicago, Ill.; Dr. R. F. Macadam, Glasgow, Scotland; Dr. H. A. Oberman and Dr. J. R. Olson, Ann Arbor, Mich.; Dr. F. P. Probst, Umeå, Sweden; and Dr. W. C. Thacker, Greenville, Tenn. for providing us with illustrations, either published or unpublished.

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EDITOR

HARLAN I. FIRMINGER, M. D.

Professor, Department of Pathology
University of Maryland School of Medicine
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

and

Scientist Associate, Universities Associated for
Research and Education in Pathology, Inc.
9650 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, Maryland 20014

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