Preface

Diagnostic Challenges and Recent Developments in Soft Tissue Pathology

Leona A. Doyle, MD

Karen J. Fritchie, MD

Editors

This issue of *Surgical Pathology Clinics* is the second devoted to soft tissue tumors, the first presented in 2011. The current issue addresses diagnostic challenges in several common areas of soft tissue pathology, with an emphasis on providing a practical approach to such lesions on small biopsy samples and the role of ancillary immunohistochemical and molecular techniques. The diagnosis of soft tissue tumors requires both careful morphologic evaluation and clinical correlation, and articles are therefore grouped based on morphologic and clinical characteristics, such as epithelioid tumors, adipocytic and spindle cell neoplasms that arise in the retroperitoneum, chondro-osseous lesions, and diagnostically challenging pediatric soft tissue tumors. Additional articles review recent advances in the field of soft tissue pathology, describing newly characterized entities, recent molecular insights into myoepithelial tumors of soft tissue and gastrointestinal stromal tumor, as well as a comprehensive review of the myriad molecular techniques (and their utility) now employed in both clinical and research settings for the evaluation of soft tissue tumors. Finally, because many non-mesenchymal neoplasms may mimic sarcoma (and vice versa), one article reviews the pertinent clinical, morphologic, immunohistochemical, and molecular features that distinguish the most common non-mesenchymal mimics of sarcoma from different sarcoma

types. It is hoped that this issue will provide practicing pathologists with the tools to effectively and efficiently evaluate challenging soft tissue tumors based on their clinical and morphologic features, along with the appropriate use of ancillary diagnostic tests, and also provide a comprehensive overview of recent developments in soft tissue pathology, including newly described tumor types, novel molecular insights into the pathogenesis of different soft tissue tumors, and the emerging role of sequencing techniques, along with existing and other novel molecular methods used in the evaluation of sarcoma.

Leona A. Doyle, MD
Department of Pathology
Brigham & Women's Hospital
75 Francis Street
Boston, MA 02115, USA

Karen J. Fritchie, MD
Mayo Clinic
Department of Anatomic Pathology
Hilton 11
200 First Street, Southwest
Rochester, MN 55905, USA

E-mail addresses:
ladoyle@partners.org (L.A. Doyle)
fritchie.karen@mayo.edu (K.J. Fritchie)