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Preface

An increasing use of minimally invasive diagnostic procedures together with continuously growing ancillary techniques applied to cytological specimens brought widespread acceptance of using fine-needle aspiration cytology (FNAC) in the diagnosis of soft tissue and bone lesions. While cytological examinations have been used in many centers to follow up on previously treated sarcomas or to confirm soft tissue and bone metastases, in the last decade the primary diagnosis of soft tissue and bone tumors has emerged as an important new target for FNAC. As the first-line approach, cytologic examination most often provides diagnostic information allowing the initiation of treatment or guidance of the continued diagnostic investigation.

The purpose of this volume is to describe, illustrate, and summarize the cytological criteria of the most common entities of musculoskeletal tumors and those rare tumors where cytological features have been largely described in case reports and in smaller series. Correlations between cytology and the diagnostic use of ancillary techniques applicable to FNAC, such as immunocytochemical and molecular tests, are detailed on an entity-by-entity basis in order to facilitate the diagnostic workup in the cytological samples. The selection of entities illustrated are based on experience with patients referred to the Sarcoma Centre of the Skåne University Hospital and the illustrations are taken from the considerable cytological material of musculoskeletal lesions, gathered over more than 45 years, which is available in the archives of our institution.

This book provides a comprehensive and well-illustrated review of the FNAC of soft tissue and bone tumors that can be used in the everyday practice of pathologists and cytopathologists in the musculoskeletal field. The content will also be of interest to residents and fellows in cytology, as well as orthopedic surgeons, clinical oncologists, and anyone involved in the diagnosis and therapy of patients with soft tissue and bone lesions.

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