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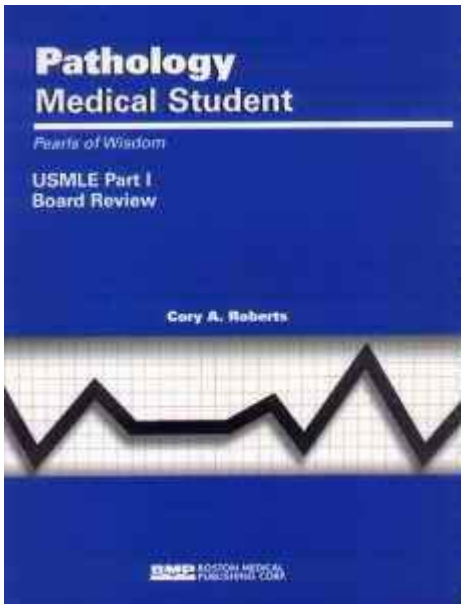
Book Reviews: Technical Books Section

(Page 1 - Excerpts Section)

EXCERPTS

Pathology - Medical Student; Pearls of Wisdom USMLE Part 1 Board Review, 1st Edition by Cory A Roberts. Softcover, 8.5" x 11".
Boston Medical Publishing Corporation, 237 S. 70th Street, Suite 206, Lincoln, NE 68510, USA, , , (WEB: www.emedicine.com), E-mail: bmp@emedicine.com. Publication date: 2000; 351 pages, ISBN 1-58409-018-9. Price $29.95

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This is one of those rare books that has won critical praise from our expert reviewer. To give a sampling of what the books has in offer for the readers, the board of editors decided to run some excerpts from this book.

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The following are some questions given under the section *"Neoplasia"* (page 71).

Neoplasia (Page 71)

What is a chromosomal inversion?

This is when a portion of DNA becomes oriented opposite to its original, natural direction.

What virus is greatly associated with cancer of the uterine cervix?

Human papilloma virus (HPV).

What chemical carcinogen is classically associated with angiosarcoma of the liver?

Vinyl chloride.

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What type of cancer is classically associated with polycyclic hydrocarbons (like soot)?

Scrotal cancer.

What chemical carcinogen is classically associated with lung cancer and mesothelioma?

Asbestos.

What type of cancer is classically associated with the aromatic amines?

Bladder.

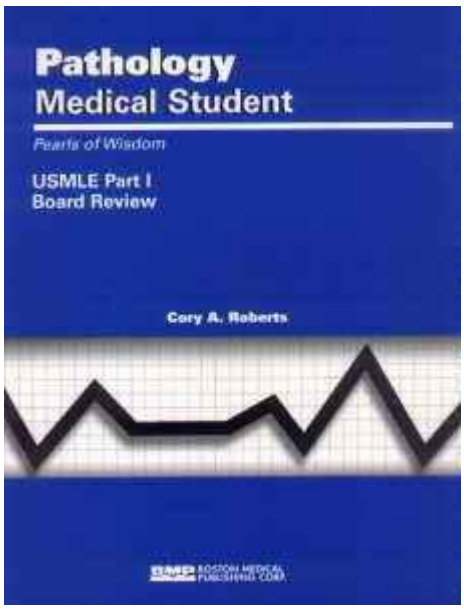
What is the term used to describe the "wasting" effect or significant weight loss seen in patients with cancer?

Cachexia.

What factor is associated with tumor related cachexia?

Cachectin (tumor necrosis factor).

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What is the term used to describe the condition where a substance produced by a tumor causes certain symptoms, not related to direct or metastatic spread of the tumor?

Paraneoplastic syndrome.

What types of tissues are considered mesenchymal?

Bone, smooth muscle, fat and fibrous tissue.

What types of cells in the body can potentially destroy tumor cells?

Cytotoxic T-cells (CD8+), killer cells, natural killer cells, and macrophages.

What are some of the options for treatment of cancer?

Surgical excision, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, and immunotherapy.

What effect can cancer have on the clotting system?

Patients can become hypercoagulable.

The following are some questions given under the section *"Pulmonary Pathology"* (page 167).

Pulmonary (Page 167)

By definition, what are the criteria for the diagnosis for chronic bronchitis?

Cough with sputum production on the majority of days, at least three months a year for greater than or equal to two successive years. Of course, there can be no other underlying disease to account for these changes.

What happens to the mucus gland to wall thickness ratio in a bronchus of a patient with chronic bronchitis?

It increases, that is, the mucus glands increase in size, although this correlates better with the degree of sputum production and the history of cigarette smoking than with the degree of measured airway obstruction.

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What are the most common organisms associated with exacerbations of chronic bronchitis?

Haemophilus influenzae, Streptococcus pneumoniae, and Branhamella catarrhalis.

What are some of the anatomic and histologic changes which are seen in the small airways of smokers?

There is narrowing of the bronchioles; they undergo goblet cell metaplasia; there is airway mucus plugging; the smooth muscle in the airways increases in thickness; and there is associated inflammation and fibrosis. In addition, in the larger airways, there is squamous metaplasia,

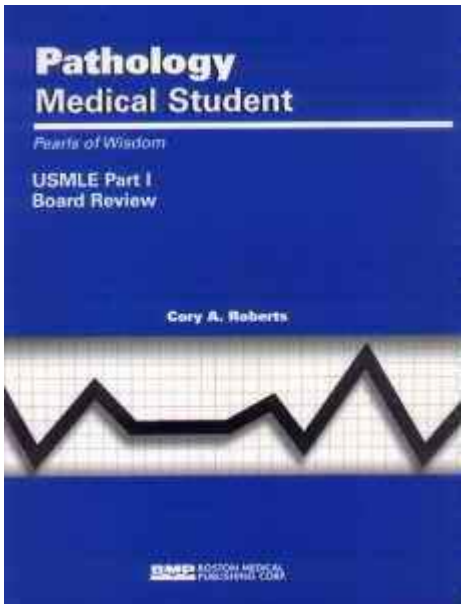
What is emphysema?

This is a form of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease clearly associated with smoking that is typified by abnormal and permanent increase in the size of air spaces distal to the terminal bronchiole with associated alveolar wall destruction.

In general, what degree of emphysema is necessary to produce clinical symptoms?

Greater than 20% of parenchymal involvement.

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What are the four types of emphysema?

Centriacinar (central lobular), panacinar, paraseptal, and irregular.

Of the four types of emphysema listed above, which is the most common?

Irregular emphysema is almost always found in association with scarring and, with meticulous inspection, most lungs examined at autopsy will be found to have some degree of irregular emphysema.

What is the most severely affected site of panacinar emphysema within the lungs?

Typically, although both upper and lower lobes are involved, the bases tend to have the worst lesions.

Where does one typically find centriacinar emphysema?

The upper lobe is the most common site and typically most severely involved.

What is the most common cause of spontaneous pneumothorax in young patients?

Spontaneous rupture of apical bullae.

And finally, here are some of the questions given under the section *"Breast Pathology"* (page 285).

Breast (Page 285)

What is the incidence of bilaterality and multifocality in tubular carcinoma?

Tubular carcinoma occurs in younger women (40s) and is multifocal in up to half of the cases and bilateral in up to 40% of the cases.

What is the maximal tumor measurement to keep a breast carcinoma at stage I?

2 cm or less.

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What is the maximal tumor measurement to keep a breast carcinoma at stage II?

5 cm or less.

How does the presence or absence of hormone receptors in a tumor effect prognosis?

Tumors with high numbers of hormone receptors have a slightly better prognosis than those without. Most breast cancers do express estrogen receptors, particularly in postmenopausal women.

How does mammary Paget's disease differ from extramammary Paget's?

While it is uncommon to have underlying adenocarcinoma in extramammary Paget's, Paget's disease of the nipple is the presence of intraepidermal malignant cells from an underlying invasive ductal carcinoma or comedo DCIS.

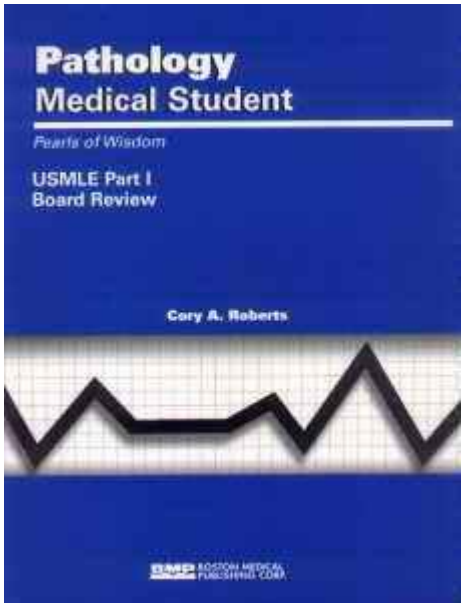
How does the status of HER-2/neu (c-erbB-2) effect the prognosis in breast cancer?

It is associated with decreased survival when overexpressed in tumor cells.

Which is more common, intraductal or infiltrating ductal carcinoma?

Infiltrating ductal, by far. It accounts for about 70% of breast cancers while intraductal accounts for less than 10%.

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What is the characteristic histologic feature of mucinous (colloid) carcinoma?

It is characterized by pools of mucin within which groups of tumor cells "float".

What does the term "metaplastic carcinoma" describe in breast cancer?

These are tumors with "sarcomatoid" features or a mixture of malignant epithelial and mesenchymal elements.

What is the most common pure sarcoma to occur in the breast?

Angiosarcoma.

What is the mean age of development of angiosarcoma of the breast?

Approximately 40 years.

In general terms, what is the prognosis of angiosarcoma of the breast?

It varies greatly depending on the grade of the tumor. Low grade tumors have a good prognosis with over 80% 10 year survival; however, that number drops to less than 15% 10 year survival in grade 3 tumors.

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