

Preface



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Guest Editor

The field of neoplastic hematopathology is constantly evolving, and the rate of change has accelerated recently. High-throughput genomic strategies are allowing the generation of new data at a rapid pace, and these new findings are adding texture to the current classification schemes used in the new World Health Organization (WHO) classification of tumors of the hematopoietic and lymphoid tissues. Both myeloid and lymphoid tumors are the paradigm of diseases wherein morphologic, immunophenotypic, cytogenetic, and molecular findings are intricately woven together to establish accurate diagnoses and to facilitate the recognition of new subentities. For these reasons, the field is in constant flux.

In 2001, the WHO classification of tumors of the hematopoietic and lymphoid tissues listed 89 separate International Classification of Diseases for Oncology (ICD-O) codes, including a number of provisional entities. The 2008 edition of the WHO book lists 145 distinct ICD-O codes, and it is 88 pages longer than the previous edition. Several of the authors of articles in this issue of *Hematology/Oncology Clinics of North America* made contributions to the current WHO book and thus are considered experts in the field. Most of the major disease categories of the latest classification are covered in this issue of *Clinics*. Emphasis is placed on key diagnostic features used in daily practice, and therefore most articles contain helpful tables that list key differential features that allow one to distinguish between different entities. In addition, this issue covers several overarching topics, including molecular diagnostics in hematopathology and specific diagnostic features and patterns of involvement of the bone marrow in lymphoid neoplasms. The article on molecular hematopathology covers the gamut of diagnostic tests used for both myeloid and lymphoid diseases. Moreover, topics such as minimal residual disease monitoring and the detection of single nucleotide variants are discussed. This article also includes a section on where the field is likely to go in the near future. The article on lymphomatous bone-marrow involvement in hematopathology is extremely useful, succinctly covering a wealth of helpful diagnostic features that would otherwise require an entire textbook to adequately address. There is also an article devoted to diseases that may mimic lymphoma, and it discusses the histologic, immunophenotypic, and molecular features that can be used to distinguish these entities from true lymphoid tumors.

This issue of *Hematology/Oncology Clinics of North America* is beautifully illustrated, with numerous high-quality photomicrographs highlighting key diagnostic features, and all are in color. These images, together with informative line diagrams and concise descriptions of most of the major disorders that encompass lymphoid and myeloid diseases, should make this a cherished resource for all who are interested in neoplastic hematopathology.

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