Meehan's dermatopathology: Doppelgängers & stags, volume 2, iBook edition

Euphemia W. Mu, MD, and Shane A. Meehan, MD, 2017, New York, NY: Meehan & Mu, 72 pages. $19.99.

In their second volume, Drs Mu and Meehan have expanded upon their excellent resource suited for those learning dermatopathology. The text is presented in an iBook format, designed to be read on a mac or iPad, and is unlike any other dermatopathology text available. I commend the authors on their innovative use of e-book technology. The text is divided into 2 sections: doppelgängers and stags. The first section, doppelgängers, presents 2 interactive high-resolution images of diagnoses with similar histologic features side by side on a single page. The reader can view the virtual slide at 3 different magnifications and click a link that reveals the diagnosis with a succinct description. The second section, stags, features stand-alone cases in a multiple-choice quiz format. In total, 100 unique images are presented. The interface is simple and easy to navigate on a computer or iPad. An index and glossary provides a quick review of any diagnosis, and the reader can easily type notes within the text.

The most critical aspect of learning dermatopathology is being able to identify the unique histologic feature that delineates one diagnosis from another (eg, the lipomembranous change of lipodermatosclerosis versus the hyaline sclerosis of lupus panniculitis). Typically, this process is refined through textbook reading and countless visual exposures to glass slides, which is often challenging for new learners. The format of this text enables easy recognition of the subtle differences for each unique diagnosis by using comparative images side by side. The available magnifications help the reader focus on the relevant features on the high-quality images. In contrast to reading a textbook, with the iBook, readers are able to quiz themselves on each image, as the diagnosis and explanation are only presented after clicking a link, which provides for an excellent resource for self-study. The integration of virtual pathology into dermatology in training and board examinations makes this text even more relevant for residents. I highly recommend the book for any student of dermatopathology, both new and experienced.

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