

College of American Pathologists Practical Guide to Gynecologic Cytopathology

Morphology, Management, and Molecular Methods

Partial Contents

1. Gynecologic Cytology: Approach to the Slide and Normal Morphology	1
Introduction	1
Preanalytical Examination of the Specimen	1
Specimen Reporting Format	2
Specimen Adequacy	2
Normal Cells Identified From the Vagina, Cervix, Transformation Zone, Endocervix, and Endometrium	3
Variations Based on Menstrual Phase, Menstrual Status, and Hormone Use	6
2. Specimen Adequacy (Modified from <i>The Bethesda System for Reporting Cervical Cytology</i>)	11
Background	11
Adequacy Categories	11
Minimum Squamous Cellularity Criteria	11
Endocervical/Transformation Zone Component	14
Obscuring Factors	16
Management	16
Sample Reports	17
3. Human Papillomavirus: Basic Facts and Relevance to Gynecologic Cytology	19
1. What is HPV?	19
2. What cell in the genital tract does HPV infect?	19
3. How is HPV transmitted?	20
4. How many women are infected?	20
5. Does an HPV infection imply the presence of clinical disease?	20
6. What is the difference between “low-risk” and “high-risk” HPV types?	21
7. What are the specific disease associations of HPV types?	21
8. What is the most prevalent HPV type?	21
9. What is the biologic difference between low-grade and high-grade cervical lesions?	21
10. What are the oncogenic genes of HPV and what do they do?	22
11. What are the methods for detecting HPV?	22
12. Are there other diseases associated with HPV and what are they?	23
4. Benign Changes and Mimics of Malignant and Premalignant Epithelial Lesions	25
General Features	25
Benign Inflammatory Conditions	25
Figure 4-1. Reactive and inflammatory epithelial cell changes	25
Figure 4-2. Parabasal and squamous metaplastic cells	27
Figure 4-3. Anucleated squamous cells	28
Figure 4-4. Atrophic vaginitis	28
Figure 4-5. Degenerative changes in benign cells	30
Figure 4-6. Chronic follicular cervicitis	31
Figure 4-7. Parakeratotic cells	32
Figure 4-8. Repair	33
Figure 4-9. Reserve cells	34

Organisms	34
Figure 4-10. Actinomyces	34
Figure 4-11. Amoeba	35
Figure 4-12. Bacterial vaginosis	36
Figure 4-13. Candida species	37
Figure 4-14. Cytomegalovirus	38
Figure 4-15. Herpes simplex	39
Figure 4-16. Leptothrix (with discussion on Trichomonas)	40
Figure 4-17. Molluscum contagiosum	40
Figure 4-18. Pinworm (Enterobius vermicularis)	41
Figure 4-19. Trichomonas vaginalis	41
Pregnancy-Related Changes	43
Figure 4-20. Arias Stella change	43
Figure 4-21. Decidual change	44
Figure 4-22. Trophoblastic cells	45
Benign Glandular Changes	46
Figure 4-23. Microglandular hyperplasia	46
Figure 4-24. Endocervical cells	46
Figure 4-25. Endometrial exodus	48
Figure 4-26. Endometrial glandular cells	48
Figure 4-27. Endometrium from the lower uterine segment	50
Figure 4-28. Endometrial stromal cells	51
Figure 4-29. Endometriosis	52
Figure 4-30. Changes associated with intrauterine device	52
Figure 4-31. Endocervical and endometrial polyps	54
Figure 4-32. Tubal metaplasia	55
Iatrogenic, Metabolic, Systemic	56
Figure 4-33. Chemotherapy/radiation	56
Figure 4-34. Depo-Provera	57
Figure 4-35. Fistula: Colon cells and food	58
Figure 4-36. Folate and vitamin B ₁₂ deficiency	59
Figure 4-37. Pemphigus	59
Noncervical Cells and Artifacts	60
Figure 4-38. Air-drying artifact	60
Figure 4-39. Alternaria	60
Figure 4-40. Bare nuclei	61
Figure 4-41. Cockleburs	61
Figure 4-42. Cornflaking	62
Figure 4-43. Ferning	62
Figure 4-44. Fibers	63
Figure 4-45. Fibrocytes/fibroblasts	63
Figure 4-46. Geotrichum	64
Figure 4-47. Glycogen	65
Figure 4-48. Lubricant	65
Figure 4-49. Multinucleated histiocytes	66
Figure 4-50. Pencil cells	66
Figure 4-51. Pollen	67
Figure 4-52. Smooth muscle cells	68

5. Squamous Epithelial Abnormalities	69
Atypical Squamous Cells of Undetermined Significance	69
Atypical Squamous Cells, Cannot Exclude HSIL	70
Low-Grade Squamous Intraepithelial Lesions	70
High-Grade Squamous Intraepithelial Lesion	71
Squamous Cell Carcinoma	71
Figure 5-1. ASC-US with changes suggestive of LSIL (HPV cytopathic effect)	72
Figure 5-2. ASC-US with features suggestive of LSIL (mild dysplasia)	74
Figure 5-3. ASC-H: Immature squamous metaplasia	75
Figure 5-4. ASC-H: Scattered single cell pattern	76
Figure 5-5. ASC-H: Hyperchromatic crowded groups	77
Figure 5-6. ASC-H: Atypical repair	78
Figure 5-7. ASC-H: Pleomorphic parakeratosis suggestive of keratinizing dysplasia	78
Figure 5-8. ASC-H: Atypical squamous cells in atrophy	79
Figure 5-9. LSIL: Cellular morphology of HPV cytopathic effect	79
Figure 5-10. LSIL: Cellular morphology of mild dysplasia	80
Figure 5-11. LSIL: Nuclear morphology	82
Figure 5-12. HSIL: Nuclear morphology	83
Figure 5-13. HSIL: Cellular morphology, single cell pattern	84
Figure 5-14. HSIL: Cellular morphology, sheets	86
Figure 5-15. HSIL: Cellular morphology, hyperchromatic crowded groups	88
Figure 5-16. HSIL: Cellular morphology, keratinizing dysplasia	89
Figure 5-17. HSIL: Small HSIL cells in liquid-based preparations	90
Figure 5-18. HSIL: Pale (hypochromatic) or normochromatic cells in liquid-based preparations	91
Figure 5-19. Invasive carcinoma: Nuclear features	92
Figure 5-20. Nonkeratinizing squamous cell carcinoma	93
Figure 5-21. Keratinizing squamous cell carcinoma	94
Figure 5-22. Tumor diathesis	95
6. Glandular Epithelial Abnormalities	97
Adenocarcinoma In Situ	97
Endocervical Adenocarcinoma	97
Endometrial Adenocarcinoma	98
Atypical Glandular Cells: Endocervical	98
Atypical Glandular Cells: Endometrial	99
Other Neoplasms, Including Metastasis	100
Figure 6-1, A. Adenocarcinoma in situ: Palisaded strips	101
Figure 6-1, B. Adenocarcinoma in situ: Complex branched fragments	102
Figure 6-1, C. Adenocarcinoma in situ: Acinar architecture	103
Figure 6-1, D. Adenocarcinoma in situ: Rosette architecture	104
Figure 6-1, E. Adenocarcinoma in situ: Feathering	105
Figure 6-1, F. Adenocarcinoma in situ: Nuclear features	106
Figure 6-1, G. Adenocarcinoma in situ: Nuclear pseudostratification	107
Figure 6-1, H. Adenocarcinoma in situ: Three-dimensional architecture	108
Figure 6-2, A. Endocervical adenocarcinoma: Diathesis	108
Figure 6-2, B. Endocervical adenocarcinoma: Loose architectural arrangement	109
Figure 6-2, C. Endocervical adenocarcinoma: Three-dimensional architecture	110
Figure 6-2, D. Endocervical adenocarcinoma: Nuclear disarray	110
Figure 6-2, E. Endocervical adenocarcinoma: Nuclear pleomorphism	111

Figure 6-2, F. Endocervical adenocarcinoma: Well-differentiated	111
Figure 6-2, G. Endocervical adenocarcinoma: Moderate and poorly differentiated	112
Figure 6-3, A. Endometrial adenocarcinoma: Background and low-magnification appearance	113
Figure 6-3, B. Endometrial adenocarcinoma: Small three-dimensional groups	115
Figure 6-3, C. Endometrial adenocarcinoma: Well-differentiated	116
Figure 6-3, D. Endometrial adenocarcinoma: Moderately differentiated	117
Figure 6-3, E. Endometrial adenocarcinoma: Poorly differentiated	118
Figure 6-4, A. Atypical endocervical cells: Architectural features of cervicitis	119
Figure 6-4, B. Atypical endocervical cells: Nuclear features of cervicitis	120
Figure 6-4, C. Atypical endocervical cells: Architectural features of endocervical polyp	122
Figure 6-4, D. Atypical endocervical cells: Nuclear features of endocervical polyp	122
Figure 6-5, A. Tubal metaplasia: Nuclear features	124
Figure 6-5, B. Tubal metaplasia: Sharp apical borders and clumsy architectural arrangement of nuclei	125
Figure 6-5, C. Tubal metaplasia: Absence of visible cilia in hyperchromatic crowded groups	126
Figure 6-5, D. Tubal metaplasia: Atypical glandular cells indistinguishable from AIS	127
Figure 6-6, A. HSIL involving glands: Nuclear palisading at the periphery of the cell group	128
Figure 6-6, B. HSIL involving glands: Nuclear palisading within the cell group	129
Figure 6-6, C. HSIL involving glands: Glands and SIL within the same cell group	130
Figure 6-6, D. HSIL involving glands: Acinar architectural arrangements	131
Figure 6-6, E. HSIL involving glands: Pale chromatin with small nucleoli	132
Figure 6-7, A. Lower uterine segment sampling: Low-magnification architectural features	133
Figure 6-7, B. Lower uterine segment sampling: Biphasic pattern	134
Figure 6-7, C. Lower uterine segment sampling: Stromal component	135
Figure 6-7, D. Lower uterine segment sampling: Epithelial component	136
Figure 6-8, A. Atypical endometrial cells: Dysfunctional uterine bleeding	136
Figure 6-8, B. Atypical endometrial cells: Intrauterine device effect	138
Figure 6-8, C. Atypical endometrial cells: Endometrial polyp	139
Figure 6-8, D. Atypical endometrial cells: Endometrial hyperplasia	140
Figure 6-9, A. Metastatic adenocarcinoma: Colon/rectal	141
Figure 6-9, B. Metastatic adenocarcinoma: Ovarian	142
Figure 6-9, C. Metastatic adenocarcinoma: Breast	142
Figure 6-9, D. Metastatic adenocarcinoma: Fallopian tube	143
Figure 6-9, E. Malignant mixed Mullerian tumor	143
Figure 6-9, F. Metastatic adenocarcinoma: Pancreatic	144

7. Look-Alikes and Morphologic Spectrums of Change **145**

Look-Alikes: Organisms	146
Figure 7-1. <i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i>	146
Figure 7-2. Herpes	147
Figure 7-3. <i>Candida albicans</i>	148
Reactive Changes	149
Figure 7-4. Follicular cervicitis	149
Figure 7-5. Reparative changes	150
Squamous Lesions	151
Figure 7-6. ASC-US	151
Figure 7-7. LSIL: Mild squamous dysplasia	152
Figure 7-8. HSIL: Single small cells	153
Figure 7-9. HSIL: Hyperchromatic crowded groups	154
Figure 7-10. Nonkeratinizing squamous cell carcinoma	155
Figure 7-11. Diathesis	156

Glandular Lesions: Adenocarcinoma In Situ	157
Figure 7-12. Classic AIS look-alikes	157
Figure 7-13. Variant AIS look-alikes	158
Figure 7-14. Well-differentiated endocervical adenocarcinoma look-alikes	160
Figure 7-15. Poorly-differentiated endocervical adenocarcinoma look-alikes	161
Figure 7-16. Well-differentiated endometrial adenocarcinoma look-alikes	162
Spectrums	163
Morphologic Squamous Spectrums	164
Figure 7-17. Perinuclear halos: Benign to koilocytic	164
Figure 7-18. Mature large squamous cells: Benign to LSIL	165
Figure 7-19. Single small squamous cells: Benign to HSIL	166
Figure 7-20. Hyperchromatic crowded groups: Benign to HSIL	167
Figure 7-21. Abnormally keratinized cells: Benign to carcinoma	168
Figure 7-22. Cells with nucleoli: Reactive to carcinoma	169
Morphologic Glandular Spectrums	170
Figure 7-23. Endocervical cells: Benign to malignant, architecture	170
Figure 7-24. Endocervical cells: Benign to malignant, nuclear features	171
Figure 7-25. Endometrial cells: Benign to malignant	172
Figure 7-26. Tubal metaplasia: Spectrum of morphologic features	173
Figure 7-27. Endocervical adenocarcinoma in situ: Spectrum of morphologic features	174
Figure 7-28. Endometrial adenocarcinoma: Spectrum of morphologic features	175
8. Anal Cytology	177
Sampling	177
Morphology	177
HPV-Related Lesions of the Anal Canal	178
Management	179
9. Management of Women with Abnormal Pap Tests	181
Atypical Squamous Cells	181
Low-Grade Squamous Intraepithelial Lesion	183
High-Grade Squamous Intraepithelial Lesion	184
Atypical Glandular Cells, Including Adenocarcinoma In Situ	184
Exfoliated Endometrial Cells in Women Age 40 Years and Older General Category: Other	186
Benign Endocervical Cells Following Hysterectomy	186
Unsatisfactory Pap Test or Pap Tests with Quality Indicators Identified	186
Adjunctive HPV DNA Testing Used as a Screening Test	187
10. A Vaccine Against Human Papillomavirus: Current State of the Art	189
Why Develop a Vaccine Against Human Papillomavirus?	189
Factors to Consider in the Development of a Vaccine	189
HPV Vaccine Production and Clinical Trials	190
The Future	192
11. New Technology in Gynecologic Cytology	193
Cytology Automation	193
Liquid-Based Cytology	193
Automated Screening Instruments	199
Adjunctive Testing of Gynecologic Cytology Specimens	205
Cervical Carcinoma Biomarkers	208
FDA, Off-Label Use, and Validation Studies	210

12. Quality Improvement in the Cytopathology Laboratory	215
General Laboratory Quality Assurance	215
Gynecological Cytology Quality Assurance	218
Measures of Cytotechnologist Performance	219
Continuing Education	221
13. Billing and Coding Issues in Gynecologic Cytology: Deciphering the Alphanumeric Soup	223
Current Procedural Terminology	224
Healthcare Common Procedural Coding System	224
International Classification of Disease, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification	225
Coding Rules	226
SNOMED Clinical Terms	227
14. Personnel Management in the Cytopathology Laboratory	229
Introduction	229
Embracing Diversity	229
Job Description	229
Needs Assessment	230
Recruitment, Selection, and Employment of Personnel	230
Competency Assessment	232
Developing a Performance Improvement Plan: The Educational Enhancement	234
15. CAP Interlaboratory Comparison and Proficiency Testing Programs in Gynecologic Cytology: Reliable Data About Slides and Their Interpretation	237
Introduction	237
The College of American Pathologists Gynecologic Cytology Programs	238
The Conduct of the Programs	238
Data Regarding Evaluation of Slide Quality and Performance	239
Data Regarding the Cytologic Features of Slides That Can (and Cannot) be Regularly, Reliably, and Correctly Interpreted	239
Abbreviations	245
Index	247