

BOOK REVIEW

Maxillary Tumors and Pseudotumors

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“A book for the present... A book for the future”.

“Maxillary Tumors and Pseudotumors” (“Tumori și pseudotumori maxilare”) was edited in 2010 by a team that is well-known in Romania and abroad for its scientific contribution in the field. It is an interdisciplinary monograph that emerged from the experience of pathologists leaded by Claudiu Mărgăritescu and Cristiana Simionescu, and of the surgeons leaded by Mihai Surpăteanu (from the University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Craiova).

This book is welcome because of many reasons. To the best of my knowledge, it is the first on this topic in the national medical literature. The topic of the book is one of the most difficult in the human pathology, and scattered data from the literature often do not cover the full spectrum of the tumors and pseudotumors of the maxilla. Therefore, the publication of this work came like a necessity to help a wide spectrum of specialists in pathology, surgery and oncology. On the other hand, it is very helpful for those that now begin to learn the tumors developed in this complex anatomical area.

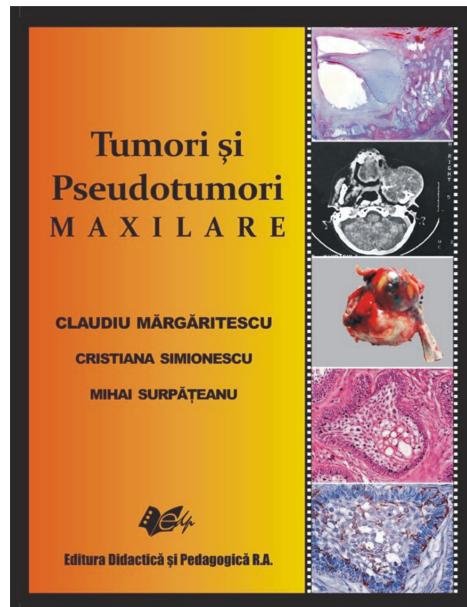
What can we find in this book along 773 pages? In the first two chapters there are described in detail the morphogenesis, anatomy and histophysiology of the dento-maxillary system. Both are extremely useful for the reader because there are given many details on the development, focusing on those structures that can be the source of specific tumors, and on the other hand, could be misinterpreted as tumors or pseudotumors in some particular conditions. Besides the text, the “normal” part of the book is supported not only by images reflecting the conventional features, but also the complex molecular profile at protein level. This last aspect was rarely investigated in the literature, but is very useful in the diagnosis of specific tumors. Why anatomy in both macroscopic and microscopic terms? Because in such a way can be understood the natural evolution and local progression of these particular tumors.

More than 150 pages are dedicated to the benign and malignant odontogenic tumors. You may say that is too much, but on the other hand, many of them are relatively rare tumors that were not described in detail, even in well-known textbooks of pathology. Imagistic, macroscopic and microscopic features are originally associated by the authors, and the full picture of these tumors was completed by an extensive immunohistochemical evaluation. In my opinion, one of the strongest points of this part is the critical reflection on the diagnostic criteria, taking into account the large body of references cited in the text.

As expected, the last chapter deals with non-odontogenic tumors of the maxillary bones, and in this part the authors followed recommendations provided by World Health Organization. Based on this data, the book is useful not only to learn about the specific tumors of the maxilla, but also gives a clear and concise background on the general tumor pathology. Notably, a large part of the content is based on the authors’ experience and in addition, own results were interpreted based on data from the literature.

At first glance, the book is completely dedicated to the teaching of tumors and pseudotumors of the maxilla. A careful examination of the text will immediately show you a large field for scientific research, and some recent publications of the authors strongly support these possibilities.

Behind the pages of this book, there is a lot of work that support the experience of the team in the field. We all know how difficult is to process specimens from this anatomical area, and how many problems we face during the immunohistochemical procedure.



The text and the supporting excellent images make me to recommend this monograph to experienced and young pathologists, to experienced and young surgeons and I am sure that many of them are also useful for students in general and dental medicine.

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