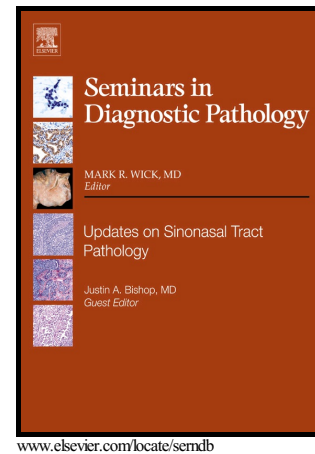


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Diagnostic histopathology of hepatocellular carcinoma: a case-based review

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ABSTRACT:

Hepatocellular carcinoma, a malignant neoplasm of hepatocytes in the liver, is the most common primary hepatic malignant neoplasm in adults. In men, it is the third leading cause of cancer death in less developed countries and the sixth leading cause of cancer death in more developed countries,¹ remaining asymptomatic for much of its natural course. A multidisciplinary approach for surveillance and early diagnosis of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) in high risk populations, combined with advances in surgical and other forms of ablative or chemotherapy, has greatly improved outcomes for patients with this tumor. Liver biopsies for HCC are becoming rare, being performed only for lesions that are atypical on imaging, in order to avoid the risk of bleeding or of inadvertently seeding the needle tract with HCC. HCC, a tumor of varied appearance, can be diagnostically challenging, particularly on a liver biopsy, on account of sampling errors. Although HCC typically occurs on a background of cirrhosis, or advanced fibrosis, it may also arise in the

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