World Health Organization Classification of Tumours

WHO OMS

International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)

Pathology and Genetics of Tumours of the Digestive System

Edited by

Stanley R. Hamilton
Lauri A. Aaltonen

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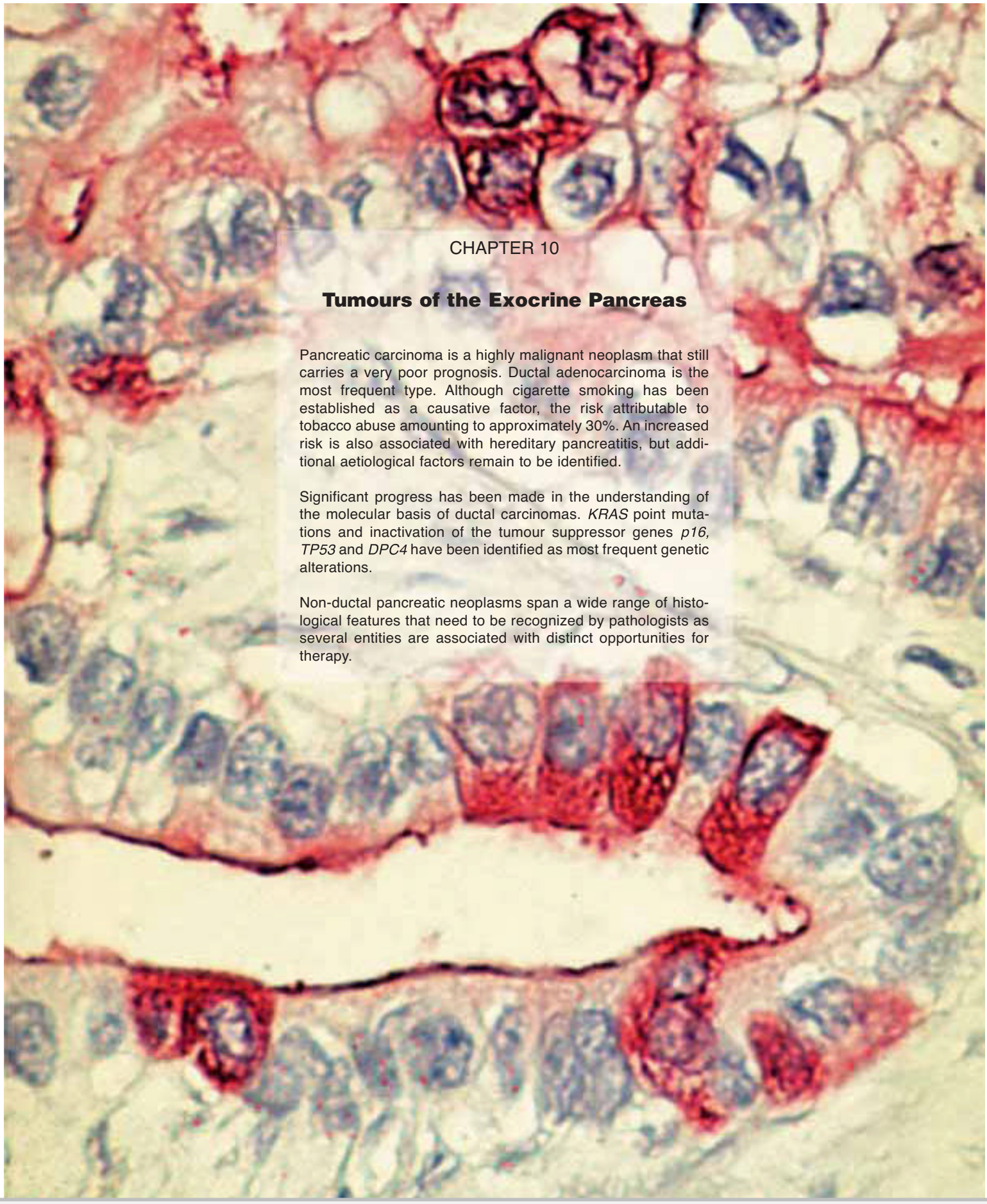

CHAPTER 10

Tumours of the Exocrine Pancreas

Pancreatic carcinoma is a highly malignant neoplasm that still carries a very poor prognosis. Ductal adenocarcinoma is the most frequent type. Although cigarette smoking has been established as a causative factor, the risk attributable to tobacco abuse amounting to approximately 30%. An increased risk is also associated with hereditary pancreatitis, but additional aetiological factors remain to be identified.

Significant progress has been made in the understanding of the molecular basis of ductal carcinomas. *KRAS* point mutations and inactivation of the tumour suppressor genes *p16, TP53* and *DPC4* have been identified as most frequent genetic alterations.

Non-ductal pancreatic neoplasms span a wide range of histological features that need to be recognized by pathologists as several entities are associated with distinct opportunities for therapy.

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