
Preface

Colposcopy is an accepted and widely used technique to examine the lower genital tract. The number of textbooks on colposcopy testifies to the rapid development of the technique over the last 20 years. The first edition of this book came out in German in 1984 (1). Since then revised editions have appeared in Spanish, Japanese, French, Italian as well as English (2).

The present edition is a compact, user-oriented resource for general practitioners, nurses, and other nonspecialists. Accordingly we have left out detailed histologic pictures and descriptions while keeping the colposcopic images that are the backbone of the book. So-called “extended colposcopy” (i.e., with

the acetic acid and the iodine test) has been given ample coverage. We emphasize how to assess the abnormal vascular patterns that frequently signal underlying problems that require treatment. Like its predecessors this book intends to explain both the fundamentals of colposcopic technique as well as how colposcopy can help appreciate the dynamic processes at the cervix that we have to understand to prevent invasive cervical cancer.

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