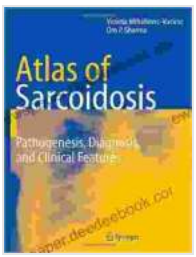
Atlas of Sarcoidosis: Pathogenesis, Diagnosis, and Clinical Features

Sarcoidosis is a chronic, multisystem granulomatous disease of unknown etiology that primarily affects the lungs and lymph nodes. It is characterized by the formation of non-caseating granulomas, which are collections of inflammatory cells that surround a central core of dead tissue. Sarcoidosis can affect any organ system, but it most commonly affects the lungs, lymph nodes, skin, and eyes. The disease can range in severity from mild to severe, and it can be either acute or chronic.

Pathogenesis

The exact cause of sarcoidosis is unknown, but it is thought to be caused by an immune response to an unknown antigen. The antigen may be environmental, infectious, or occupational. Once the immune system is activated, it releases a variety of inflammatory cells that travel to the affected organs and form granulomas. The granulomas are composed of macrophages, lymphocytes, and other inflammatory cells. The macrophages are the primary cells responsible for phagocytosing the antigen and releasing inflammatory cytokines. The lymphocytes are responsible for regulating the immune response and killing infected cells.



Atlas of Sarcoidosis: Pathogenesis, Diagnosis and Clinical Features by Violeta Mihailovic-Vucinic

4.9 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 5094 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Print length	: 160 pages
Screen Reader	: Supported

X-Ray for textbooks : Enabled

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Diagnosis

The diagnosis of sarcoidosis is based on a combination of clinical findings, imaging studies, and biopsy results. The clinical findings may include cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, weight loss, and night sweats. The imaging studies may show granulomas in the lungs, lymph nodes, or other organs. The biopsy results may show non-caseating granulomas. The diagnosis of sarcoidosis can be difficult to make, and it may require a combination of tests to confirm.

Clinical Features

The clinical features of sarcoidosis can vary depending on the organs involved. The most common symptoms are cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, weight loss, and night sweats. Other symptoms may include skin rashes, eye problems, joint pain, and swelling. Sarcoidosis can also affect the heart, kidneys, liver, and other organs. The severity of the symptoms can range from mild to severe, and the disease can be either acute or chronic.

Treatment

There is no cure for sarcoidosis, but the symptoms can be managed with medication. The medications that are used to treat sarcoidosis include corticosteroids, immunosuppressive drugs, and anti-inflammatory drugs. The goal of treatment is to reduce the inflammation and prevent further

damage to the organs. In some cases, surgery may be necessary to remove granulomas or to repair damaged tissue.

Prognosis

The prognosis for sarcoidosis is variable. The majority of patients with sarcoidosis have a good prognosis, and the disease will eventually resolve on its own. However, some patients may develop chronic sarcoidosis, which can lead to significant disability and even death. The factors that affect the prognosis include the severity of the disease, the organs involved, and the response to treatment.

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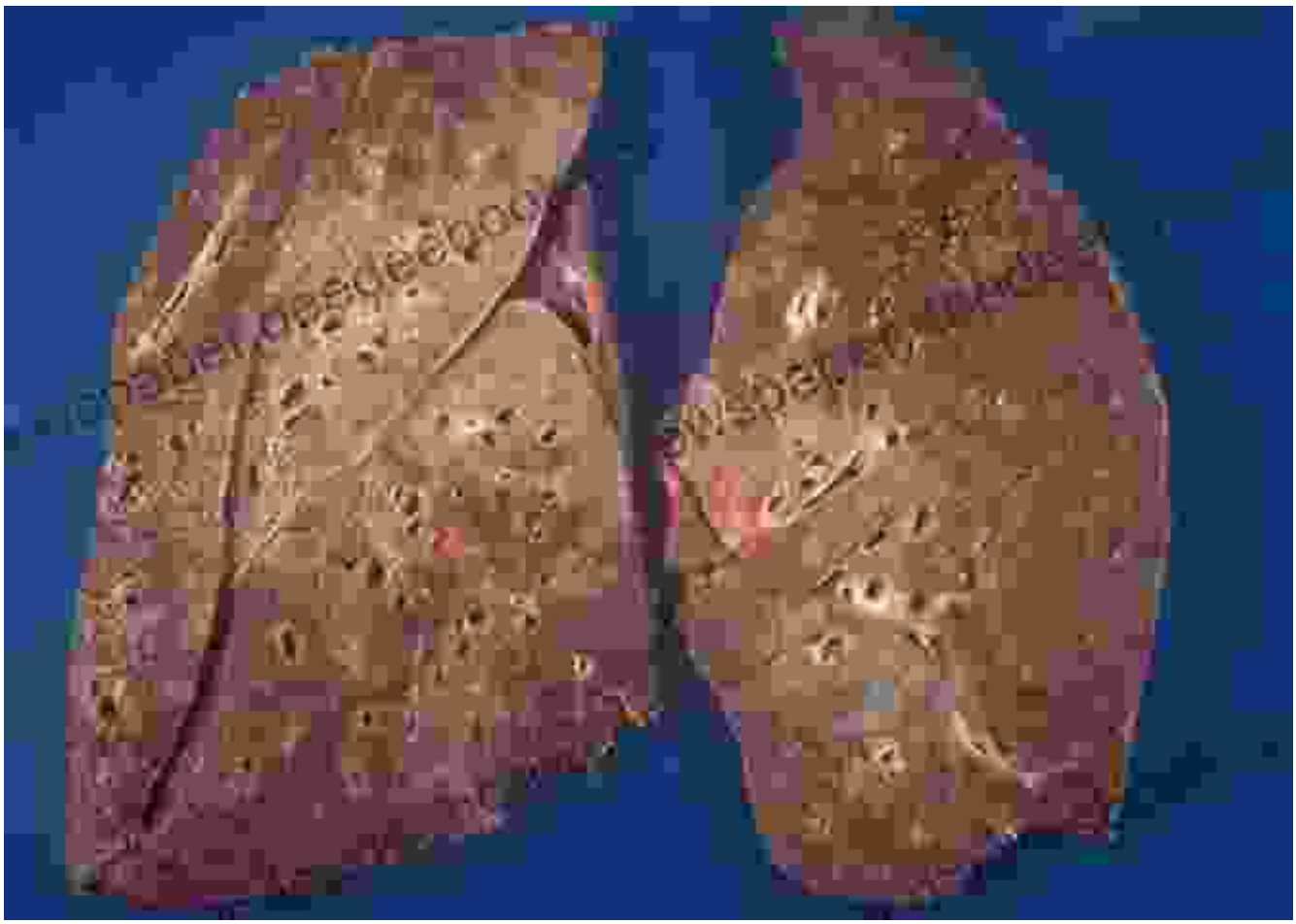
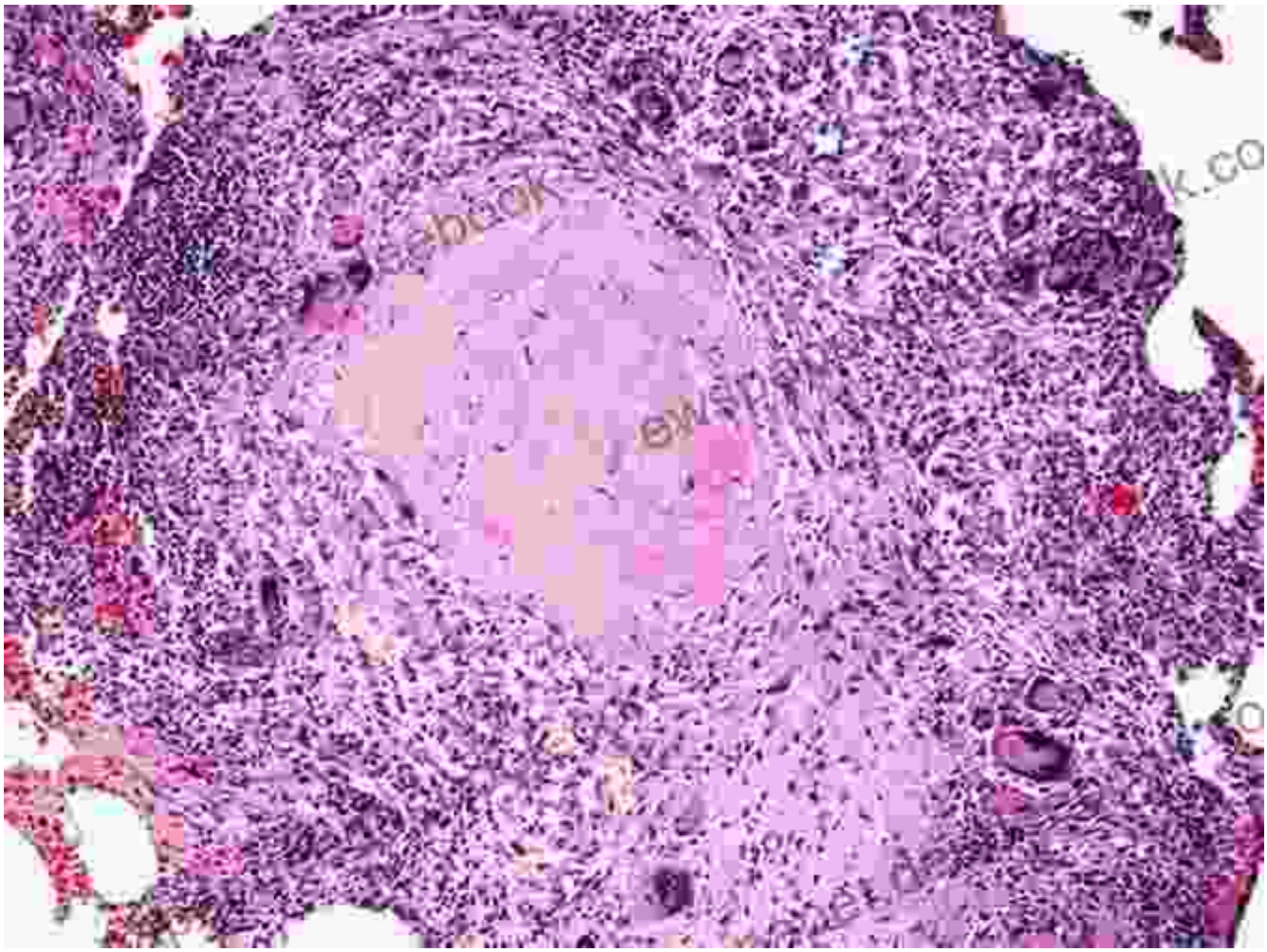
Additional Information

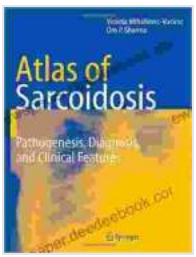
- Mayo Clinic: Sarcoidosis
- WebMD: Sarcoidosis
- National Jewish Health: Sarcoidosis

Images





Sarcoid granuloma



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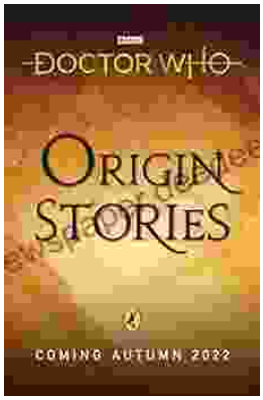

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