

Book Reviews

Abdominal Sonography. By Eric E. Sauerbrei, Khanh T. Nguyen, and Robert L. Nolan. Raven Press, New York, 1992. 300 pp. US\$80.00.

In the preface of this text, the authors set forth the goal of a "concise, organized, and well-illustrated text that covers most of the normal and abnormal structures encountered in the hospital, clinic, and office practice of abdominal sonography. The book is useful in schools of medical sonography for student sonographers, and radiology training programs for radiology residents, and also in medical schools for students. It is also a helpful guide, reference, and refresher for physicians and sonographers already practicing abdominal sonography." This concise text, with less than 300 pages and a relatively low cost, achieves many of the stated goals.

The text is divided into 13 chapters, with an initial chapter on guidelines for the performance of abdominal sonography, and a final chapter on invasive procedures. The remaining 11 chapters are a catalog of organs and structures routinely evaluated in abdominal sonography. Each chapter has a consistent organization, including an introduction, scanning techniques, normal anatomy and variance, pathology, and pitfalls, artifacts, and practical tips. This consistency is a refreshing change in a time when textbook editors enlist multiple authors who bring varying styles to each chapter. Each chapter is extensively referenced, and the references are also organized in the same groupings listed above. For unclear reasons, however, this organization is lost in chapters 10 and 11, where specific discussions on pitfalls, artifacts, and practical tips appear in separate places within chapters, rather than at the end of the chapter. Still, I found the sections on pitfalls, artifacts, and practical tips among the most useful portions of this text. Succinct discussions of frequently encountered problems such as nonshadowing calculi, "clean" versus "dirty" shadowing, or measuring abdominal aortic aneurysms, are well presented. This is entirely appropriate, given the target audience of neophytes in ultrasound. Likewise, the introductory comments on scanning techniques in each section and normal anatomy are helpful for those not well versed in ultrasound.

The major weakness of the text is in the relatively brief discussions of pathology in each section. For example, all liver neoplasms, benign and malignant, are covered in less than three full pages of text. In some circumstances, the brevity excludes a complete discussion of important considerations. For example, the fact that biopsy of hemangioma is sometimes necessary is mentioned; the risks of bleeding from this procedure are not.

Many texts written about a specific modality are guilty of exaggerating the utility of that modality. This text occasionally engages in some of this hyperbole, but not to an extreme degree. For example, ultrasound is advocated for splenic trauma, but CT is the modality of choice in most institutions. Likewise, the role of magnetic resonance imaging is not mentioned in the differential diagnosis of hemangioma. There are other areas that are not up-to-date, for instance, the section of renal pathology devotes far too much space to renal echogenicity, and not enough space to renal Doppler.

In general, the quality of images reproduced for this text is quite good. Only a few static scans are presented, and most ultrasound im-

ages are well annotated and clearly reproduced. Line drawings are sometimes used to make practical points, but in many cases, these line drawings are borrowed from other texts and articles rather than being specifically produced for this text. Forty-one color images are included in the text, separated into two sections. Many of these images demonstrate the utility of color Doppler in defining normal anatomy.

In conclusion, this is a practical, easy-to-read text which provides an introductory overview to abdominal sonography. The brevity of the discussions of pathophysiology are the major weakness of this text. For a specific audience of beginners in ultrasound, including technology students and medical students, this text is worthwhile. Most radiology residents, and certainly all physicians practicing in this field, would find the utility of this text limited, except for the nicely written sections on pitfalls, artifacts, and practical tips.

Charles S. Marn, M.D.
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA

Nuclear Medicine in Gastroenterology. Edited by H. J. Biersack and P. H. Cox. Kluwer Academic Press, Dordrecht, The Netherlands, 1991. US\$89.00.

This book is the latest in a series of 18 volumes devoted to various developments in nuclear medicine published in Europe over the past 12 years. The text consists of a 244-page review of current applications of nuclear medicine in the evaluation of the gastrointestinal tract. It includes a total of 16 chapters, divided into three sections, related to the liver and biliary tree, stomach and intestines, and miscellaneous topics. The editors state in the preface that their purpose was "to present the entire spectrum of Nuclear Medicine in Gastroenterology to our colleagues from internal medicine and surgery." There were a total of 17 contributors, both from Europe and the United States.

The text is well-organized and concise. It has a strong European flavor, with traditional English spellings used throughout most chapters, and is heavily weighted toward the inclusion of European references. Many applications of nuclear medicine in the evaluation of the gastrointestinal tract are covered to some degree in this text, including some "cutting edge" and research topics, such as monoclonal antibody imaging. However, the depth of coverage is uneven, and overall disappointing for a text devoted solely to an area of relatively narrow scope. More importantly, the relative emphasis placed upon various topics is puzzling. For example, only brief paragraphs are devoted to the technique of performing SPECT and PET imaging of the liver. Even more surprising is the complete absence of coverage of hepatobiliary imaging in acute cholecystitis or the use of radionuclide techniques for evaluating gastric emptying, while at the same time there are complete chapters devoted to more obscure topics, such as detection of peptic ulcers with Tc-99m sucralfate imaging and the use of radionuclide imaging techniques in the evaluation of liver transplants. The chapter on detection of gastrointestinal bleeding sites,

while brief, is well-written, although it does betray the bias of the authors toward the use of sulfur colloid imaging over the more commonly favored labeled red blood cell studies. The quality of the illustrations in this book is overall acceptable, but again variable. For example, very few SPECT images are presented, and those that are included are not of high technical quality. Many of the planar images suffer from excessively high contrast.

In summary, this book succeeds only partially in its goal of targeting an audience of clinicians interested in obtaining a broad overview of gastrointestinal nuclear medicine modalities. As noted above, the omission of some of the most important applications of nuclear medicine procedures to imaging of the gastrointestinal tract is a major shortcoming of this text. The book should not represent itself as covering "the entire spectrum of Nuclear Medicine in Gastroenterology." Furthermore, it will probably have even less appeal for practicing nuclear medicine physicians and radiologists, who can obtain more detailed coverage of many of these topics in currently available general nuclear medicine textbooks and review articles.

William G. Spies, M.D.
Northwestern Memorial Hospital
Northwestern University Medical School
Chicago, Illinois, USA

Gastrointestinal Pathology and Its Clinical Implications. By Klaus J. Lewin, Robert H. Riddell, and Wilfred M. Weinstein. Igaku-Shoin Medical Publishers, New York, 1992. 1395 pp. US\$295.00.

This comprehensive and superb textbook is co-authored by two experienced pathologists and a gastroenterologist. Its two volumes contain over 1300 pages of highly informative text, illustrated with several hundred beautifully reproduced color photographs of histologic sections, gross specimens, and endoscopic views. A fine selection of anatomic drawings, differential diagnostic tables, and some radiographs from gastrointestinal barium studies complement the presentations.

The book is organized into six sections with a total of 27 chapters. The first part reviews fundamental techniques for mucosal biopsy, staining, and interpretation of specimens. The second part has eight chapters which describe the common features of gastrointestinal lesions induced by ischemic or radiation injuries, iatrogenic trauma, immunodeficiency, lymphoproliferative and systemic disorders. The remaining 18 chapters in four separate parts cover diseases of the esophagus, gastroduodenal segment, appendix, small bowel, and colon. The spectrum of pathologic and clinical manifestations of alimentary tract disorders are presented in detail, and pertinent references are cited.

I am confident that this magnificent textbook will become the classic "gold standard" for the subspecialty of gastrointestinal pathology. The practicing physicians and radiologists who deal with diagnosis or management of digestive tract diseases will find a wealth of infor-

mation in this well-written and nicely illustrated publication. It should be readily available as a source for consultation, and I recommend it as a valuable addition to hospital and departmental libraries.

Gary G. Ghahremani, M.D.
Evanston Hospital
Northwestern University
Evanston, Illinois, USA

Genitourinary Tract Disease, 4th Series. Test and Syllabus. Edited by Harold A. Mitty, N. Reed Dunnick, Peggy J. Fritzsche, Stanford M. Goldman, and Carl M. Sandler. American College of Radiology, Reston, VA, 1992. 534 pp. Residents US\$90.00, ACR members US\$110.00, nonmembers US\$175.00.

This book is the latest in the excellent teaching series of the American College of Radiology. The book is approximately 200 pages longer and the cases are discussed in greater depth than the prior syllabus written 6 years ago. Much has changed in the field of uro-radiology since that time and this text reflects these changes.

The coverage of this book places greater emphasis on cross-sectional imaging and interventional procedures. The authors and editors succeed in their goal of presenting "credible, clinically relevant problems of the type faced daily by diagnostic radiologists."

A tremendous variety of topics is discussed using 147 multiple-choice questions and 29 clinical cases. Topics discussed include: pediatric entities, such as Wilm's tumor, posterior urethral valves, prune belly syndrome, and multicystic dysplastic disease; classification of injuries to the kidney, adrenal glands, bladder, ureter, and urethra; vascular disease, such as renal artery stenosis, renal vein thrombosis, and vascular malformations. The spectrum of infections and tumors of all urinary tract organs are very well described. In addition, gynecological topics, such as hysterosalpingography of salpingitis isthmica nodosa and pelvic inflammatory disease, as well as the MR and sonographic appearance of endometriosis, are discussed. Timely topics include prostate imaging with ultrasound and MR, percutaneous interventions, the evaluation of impotence, and extracorporeal shock wave lithotripsy.

The quality of the images is excellent and they are well-labeled. The 29 clinical cases are accompanied by comprehensive review articles that include excellent discussions of the pathologic basis, diagnosis, differential diagnosis, imaging findings, and treatment of each disease.

The book is an excellent review of the most common infectious, neoplastic, vascular, traumatic, and congenital diseases involving the genitourinary tract that both residents and practicing radiologists will find extremely valuable.

Frank Miller, M.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts, USA