

Fundamentals of Abdominal Sonography: A Teaching Approach

Howard W. Raymond, M.D., New York, Grune & Stratton, 1979, 200 pages, illustrated, hardcover, \$23.00.

This book deals with basic abdominal ultrasound. Except for the initial chapter, which deals with general considerations of technique and abdominal anatomy, each of the other chapters considers a specific organ (gallbladder, pancreas, liver, kidney, aorta) and follows a set format. This includes a discussion of the role of ultrasound for a given clinical problem or organ, indications, technique, and approach to scan interpretation. The majority of each chapter is devoted to ultrasound case presentations, each preceded by a concise clinical summary. Prior to a discussion of each case, the reader is asked to formulate a diagnosis or draw conclusions based on the ultrasound images and information provided. This format is thought-provoking and should make the learning experience more meaningful. On ensuing pages, the ultrasound findings are discussed, follow-up information is provided, and comments are made that include useful practical points based on the author's experience. The original ultrasound images are often illustrated (with arrows and labels) for viewing a second time adjacent to the case discussion, thus eliminating the need to turn pages back and forth. The important points of most chapters are summarized. A short reference list, including some references as recent as 1978, is provided at the end of each chapter.

The case material of the book deals primarily with sonography of *common* abdominal conditions. Echoencephalography, echocardiography, extra-abdominal applications of B-mode ultrasound, and ophthalmic and obstetric ultrasound are not dealt with.

The vast majority of ultrasound images are displayed with black echoes on a white background. The quality of the illustrations is good, and the liberal use of arrows and labeling will be appreciated by the reader being introduced to the subject.

This book should appeal to medical students, radiology residents, and general radiologists who have little or no experience with abdominal ultrasound. The case presentation sections of the chapters could serve to quiz radiology residents and sonographers preparing for their specialty boards examinations. Since the book is short and easy to read, its value as an *introductory* text is enhanced. At the same time, it appears to be of limited value for the experienced sonologist or sonographer, or as a reference volume.

Terry M. Silver, M.D.
University of Michigan Medical School
Ann Arbor, MI