

Fetal and pediatric ultrasound—a casebook approach

Eds: Cohen HL, Sivit CJ

McGraw-Hill Book Company, Suites 1134-1138, Pioneer Centre, 750 Nathan Road, Mongkok, Kowloon, Hong Kong

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This is an interesting and well-written collection of ultrasound cases presented by 35 authors from various established US radiology centres. The two contributing editors, Cohen and Sivit, are both renowned radiologists who have published extensively on various ultrasound topics, including foetal ultrasound, trauma, abdominal imaging, neurosonography, and the genitourinary system. The book, which runs to more than 600 pages, comprises 120 cases (26 foetal and 94 paediatric) presented in a format that allows self-testing. First, a short introduction of the case and the clinical scenario are presented with images on a right-sided page. Then, on the turned page, on the left side, the diagnosis is given, followed by an explanation of the findings and discussion. The book is divided into chapters according to systems, including the central nervous system, hepatobiliary system, spleen, pancreas, adrenal gland, genito-urinary tract, gastrointestinal tract, etc. A small miscellaneous section on the neck, chest, and musculoskeletal system is also included. The case mix consists of those that are well known and commonly encountered in everyday practice.

The unique style of presentation makes the book easy to read and stimulating. Because of the large number of cases, the book is able to cover the gamut of pathologies from foetal to adolescent. The cases highlight normal age-related changes and emphasise the importance of age in differential diagnosis. Apart from the differential diagnoses, the discussions deal with the ultrasound/imaging techniques and other modalities that may be useful for diagnosis. Also given are details relating to the disease and expanded information on the relevant ultrasound topics, along with basic concepts, current trends, and controversies. The discussion is in-depth, up-to-date, and comprehensive. A segment of

‘Editorial comments’ is added to the end of some of the case discussions, as ‘icing on the cake’. I found the practical tips based on the personal experience of some of the contributors extremely valuable and interesting. Many chapters contain well-presented and succinct tables of crucial information. Every chapter ends with a list of useful references. The quality of the images is satisfactory and well annotated. Colour plates for Doppler ultrasonography and pathology are included.

The strategy of different authors with their own writing styles prevents the book from becoming stilted. There is, however, a lack of consistency in the level and depth of discussion between chapters that the reader may find disconcerting. Certain chapters may be more rewarding than others depending on the reader’s needs, experience, and style preferences. For example, I appreciated the efforts of the authors who discussed by ‘question and answer’ format as I found many ‘questions’ practical and relevant. Some authors make use of subheadings in the discussion, while others do not.

This book has a wide target audience. I would recommend it for all sonologists and sonographers who are interested in foetal and paediatric imaging. The presentation makes it useful for trainees/residents as a self-test. The book also serves as an atlas for reference and review. It would certainly be an asset to any radiology library.

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The ageing body: conservative management of common neuromusculoskeletal conditions

Eds: Bougie JD, Morgenthal AP

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The two main authors of this book are both chiropractors, and contributions come from several other people, mostly with qualifications in the chiropractic field. The preface of

the book quite succinctly establishes the purpose of the book as one that provides students and clinicians in the area of chiropractic practice a textbook with information on the