

Imaging of the Thyroid and Parathyroid Glands: A Practical Guide

Brian Eisenberg, MD, editor,
Churchill Livington Inc.,
New York, 209 pp, \$59.95

This well-illustrated multi-authored textbook is written in a concise, albeit comprehensive, style that covers not only the imaging aspects of the thyroid and parathyroid glands, but incorporates useful guidelines for the clinical evaluation and treatment of many disorders relating to these two organ systems. Although this book was primarily intended for those physicians dealing with patients that have thyroid and parathyroid gland problems, many residents, medical students, and nuclear medicine technologists will find this book valuable.

The book is divided into eleven chapters and is authored by many recognized experts in the field. The subject matter is organized in a clear and easily understood manner, which follows a general pattern throughout the book. The information presented is practical, interesting, and up-to-date. The vast number of figures and tables found throughout the text which illustrate the many current concepts discussed in the chapters are commendable. There is an exhaustive and up-to-date bibliography presented at the end of each chapter.

The first chapter provides basic background information on the anatomy and embryology of the thyroid and parathyroid glands. The second chapter is concerned with the radiopharmaceuticals used for imaging and treating different thyroid diseases. The third chapter describes the nature of in vitro thyroid function tests. This topic alone could easily fill a book.

The tables in these chapters are particularly helpful.

The fourth chapter describes the various scintigraphic patterns and 24-hour thyroid uptake results that are commonly associated with various thyroid disease states. This chapter, as well as Chapter 5, presents a thorough pictorial presentation of both normal and abnormal thyroid states.

Chapters 5, 6, and 9 deviate somewhat from the typical imaging textbook in that a great deal of discussion is directed toward diagnosis and treatment issues of thyroid disorders. The authors frequently take a stand on many areas of controversy in the field that adds to the quality of this text. These chapters should not be overlooked as they give special insight into the "internal medicine" associated with imaging these two organ systems.

Only two chapters deal with parathyroid gland imaging, which is somewhat disappointing. Although the treatment of the subject matter is adequate, it is limited in scope when compared to the amount of detail presented in the thyroid gland chapters. A section dealing with the diagnostic and in vitro assays used in the workup of parathyroid diseases would have been welcome.

In summary, "Imaging of the Thyroid and Parathyroid Glands: A Practical Guide" brings together diverse subject matter in a cogent yet highly readable manner. Physicians and nuclear medicine technologists dealing with patients with thyroid and parathyroid disorders should find this book a good review and of great value. Therefore, I highly recommend this text and feel that it is well worth the price.

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Positron Emission Tomography in Clinical Research and Clinical Diagnosis

C. Beckers, A. Goffinet, A. Bol,
editors,
Kluwer Academic Publishers,
1989, 292 pp., \$86.50

This book is the proceedings of a workshop held in Brussels in October 1988, supported by the Medical and Health Research Program of the European Community. In contrast to the title, the 21 chapters of the book pertain to the study of receptors (10 chapters) and energy metabolism (11 chapters). They focus particularly on the various approaches and problems of mathematical modeling and data analysis using PET. Recommendable are the chapters by the Orsay group concerning the identification of receptor modeling and the Cologne group concerning the investigation of the dopaminergic system with PET.

The book utilizes a camera-ready text of unedited manuscripts with numerous typographical errors. Formatting of the references is different from chapter to chapter; in some chapters tables and figures are placed at the end of the chapter, in others they are included in the text. There are tables and figures that are not correctly referenced (e.g. on page 34, a table with insufficient labeling and without a legend is placed behind the references). Basic researchers will find some of the chapters useful and informative, but the poor editing makes the list price of this book much too high.

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