

Imaging of Cardiac Disorders (Vols. I and II)

Benigno Soto, E. George Kassner, and William A. Baxely. New York: Gower Medical Publishers; 1992, 338 pp. (vol. I), 387 pp. (vol. II), \$175.00.

This book consists of two volumes: Volume I describes imaging in congenital cardiac disorders and Volume II describes imaging in acquired cardiac disorders. Both volumes contain chapters on noninvasive radiologic techniques and electrocardiography, echocardiography, invasive cardiac diagnosis, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), and nuclear cardiology. Thus, each volume can be purchased and used separately. According to the Preface, the book "represents an effort to bridge the gap between introductory texts and more encyclopedic and highly specialized works on cardiology and specific imaging modalities." The book is primarily written for the cardiologist with some information from the radiologic points of view such as radiography, fluoroscopy, computed tomography (CT), MRI, and nuclear imaging.

The strong points of the book are the following: (1) excellent illustrations, images with line drawings, and tables; (2) inclusion of most imaging modalities for each disease and comments on their usefulness and limitations; and (3) concise treatise on surgical treatment for important entities. The chapter on "Treatment of Congenital Heart Disease by Surgery and Catheter Techniques" is outstanding.

The weak points of the book are as follows. The chest radiography and fluoroscopy section of the introductory chapter on "Noninvasive Radiologic Techniques and Electrocardiography" is rather anemic and of little use for evaluating acquired heart disease. The accompanying line drawings for the four-view cardiac series show some minor anatomic errors. The section on CT and its applications is incomplete, particularly concerning its value in evaluating the great vessels and coronary artery calcifications.

The classification of congenital heart disease is unconventional, based primarily on anatomic rather than pathophysiologic abnormalities. The method used in this book makes it difficult for most readers to find topics in the usual manner.

One of the cyanotic congenital abnormalities, namely pulmonary arterial venous fistula, is nowhere to be found in the book.

The chapter on "Nuclear Cardiology" was not included in the initial plan and was added as chapter 4A. Although the chapter provides an overview of techniques in nuclear cardiology, some minor errors do exist.

The book may be of interest to the nuclear medicine physician and technologist as a library reference to review a particular entity being studied in nuclear cardiology. The book is an excellent resource for describing congenital heart disorders and their treatment. However, these patients are infrequently seen in nuclear cardiology, and thus the book would be best utilized as a reference book.

Cardiologists, cardiac surgeons, cardiac radiologists, and senior trainees in cardiopulmonary radiology are the appropriate audience for this book.

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