Vascular Diagnosis with Ultrasound – Vol 1: Cerebral and Peripheral Vessels

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EXTENT P/H	384 p, hardback
PRICE/ISBN	£108.00 3131038322
PUBLISHER	Thieme (Stuttgart), 2005
REVIEWER	Mustafizur Rahman
STAR RATING	****

This comprehensive textbook is clearly targeted at vascular sonographers, established radiologists, specialist registrars in radiology and vascular surgeons in training. It provides in-depth knowledge of vascular imaging while focusing on grey scale (B-Mode) appearances and duplex Doppler including colour Doppler characteristics.

This book is organised into eight chapters. The first primarily focuses on the basic principles, physics, various ultrasonographic imaging modes and technology. It also provides a broad overview of contrast imaging. It is short, fairly informative and well written.

The second, third and fourth chapters address the examination techniques, anatomy of the extra- and intracranial arteries and veins, and their pathological changes. Although these are perhaps intended as an aid to beginners without a background or in-depth knowledge of anatomy or haemodynamics, they may serve extremely well in the understanding of the various Doppler modes in the evaluation of both arteries and veins. These chapters conclude by discussing the source of errors and how to evaluate them, which I found extremely helpful.

The fifth and sixth chapters superbly present a comprehensive description of the peripheral arteries and veins including normal and pathological findings.

The authors' expertise and vast know-how is reflected in the latter part of the sixth chapter with regards to the application of colour flow, duplex sonography, continuous wave Doppler sonography and their application in various clinical settings. Again, I was delighted to see the authors adding, in brief, the source of errors towards the end of chapter 6.

The final chapter includes case histories, which thoroughly deserve praise as they include pathological conditions of the arteries and veins by anatomical regions.

In this volume, there are 532 illustrations and all the images are of superb quality. Even the glossary at the end of the book was most enjoyable and interesting. The authors have used references generously but some of these references are rather dated. I am mindful of the title of the book; nevertheless, a little more reference to the stents and their use would have been more fitting given the size of this text.

In summary, I believe this wonderfully illustrated text of

'vascular diagnosis with ultrasound' should be a valuable addition to private bookshelves and most reference libraries. A book of this quality at the price of £108 is certainly good value and I suspect even very ardent researchers of vascular diseases, experienced practitioners and beginners (both in vascular surgery and radiology) would find it an extremely useful desk-top companion.

Operative Endoscopy and Endoscopic Surgery in Infants and Children

AZAD NAJMALDIN

EXTENT P/H	471 p, hardback
PRICE/ISBN	£165.00 0340807253
PUBLISHER	Hodder Arnold (London), 2005
REVIEWER	Anies Mahomed
STAR RATING	***

Considering the fantastic pace of change in the world of minimally invasive surgery, it is indeed the brave who take on the challenge of putting together a textbook on this subject. Chief editor Azad Najmaldin is, therefore, to be complimented for his effort in pooling the skills of leading paediatric surgeons to produce a current and pertinent text on paediatric minimally invasive surgery.

The information is delivered in 65 selected topics, which are categorised into general, gastrointestinal, thoracic and urology sections. For obvious reasons, gastroenterology has the greatest weighting but coverage of this continually expanding specialty is very adequate in all areas. A standard format is followed throughout the book, giving an easy flowing style with consistency, and the book is also well indexed with bold subheadings allowing for easy access to the information.

Despite the varied authorship, there has clearly been investment by the editors to ensure an even spread of quality throughout the book. There are parts, especially in the thoracic and urological sections, that are written from a perspective of vast experience and stand above the rest. Deficiencies, on the other hand, are hard to find and the reader is not going to be disappointed. The detail of the historical perspectives, particularly in the earlier sections, is tortuous but this is more than compensated for by the class in the 'problems, pitfalls and solutions' section, which is delivered with clinical precision. The authors have deliberately avoided controversy, concentrating instead on the facts, which is a positive aspect of the book. Where coverage of technical options is necessary as in antireflux surgery and nephrectomy, these are informative, cutting edge and comprehensive. Further reading lists are limited to key sources and sometimes not offered at all, thereby leaving