Book Review

Guenter Schmidt, Lucas Greiner and Dieter Nuernberg. *Differential Diagnosis in Ultrasound Imaging*. Stuttgart, Germany: Thieme Publishers; 2nd edition, 2014. ISBN: 9783131318923, 580 pp.: £136.50 (hbk)

This beautifully produced book is a revised and updated 2nd edition of the original 2006 English language version. It is a direct translation of the 3rd German edition from 2014 and includes almost 500 more illustrations (now totalling 2846) and the new techniques of contrast-enhanced ultrasound (CEUS) and elastography.

The book still uses a logical system of chapter headings, subheadings, colour coding and diagnostic trees to guide the reader towards a diagnosis. The chapters are anatomical and system based, starting with vessels, moving through the upper to the lower abdomen with a brief lymph node interlude and concluding with genital tracts, thyroid, chest and lung.

This is a very visual book, with over 2800 illustrations. The ultrasound images are extremely well produced with clarity, relevance and good explanatory notes. I have only two minor complaints, the first being that to include this number in even a large book like this, some of the images are too small to appreciate the finer detail or read the annotations. It is a shame that with our ease of access to computers, a digital version of the images is not available, either online or on a DVD accompanying the book. This might allow zooming and panning across an image and perhaps may include short cine loops, especially important to illustrate contrast-enhanced studies.

My second problem is that the images are often labelled with annotations that require translation, for example a vessel labelled VCV is the left gastric vein and the VL is the splenic vein. The titles below each image do, however, explain the annotations clearly.

There is good use of algorithms, summary boxes and 'tips, tricks and pitfalls' giving good advice to the sonographer and helping to narrow the differential diagnosis. *Tumour-node-metastasis* (TNM) classification is included for several of the chapters, and Bosniak classification includes the CEUS features of renal cysts.

The index can take a little getting used to with the reader often redirected, for example 'carcinoma-renal cell, see renal cell carcinoma'. Some lateral thinking or order reversal is sometimes required. 'CEUS' and 'contrast' cannot be found in the index and you will not find 'renal cyst' but have to search under 'cyst-renal'.

Interestingly, the male and female genital tract chapters have very few endoanal and endovaginal images, the mainstay of current pelvic diagnostic imaging, but maybe this reflects the broad generality of this book as many specialist texts are now available.

In summary, I feel this is a very useful book to have on the shelf in the department providing a great teaching resource for new sonographers and radiology trainees. It will also prove useful in guiding more experienced ultrasound operators towards a sensible differential or final diagnosis and has an appealing format for browsing and updating the knowledge of even the most experienced.

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