Book Review

Berthold Block (ed.), translated by Terry C Telger, *Abdominal ultrasound: Step by step*. 3rd edn, Thieme Publishers: Stuttgart, Germany, 2016; 351 pp. ISBN: 978-1-313-86363-1, £51.00 (sbk)

As we enter a new era in undergraduate and postgraduate ultrasound education and training, it is timely to have new textbooks. The third edition of this soft-back book, by an expert European medical practitioner, has 1035 high-quality images. Its aim is to help the ultrasound learner to use a step by step approach to

develop understanding of the what, why and how of abdominal ultrasound. The book gives excellent learning goals, key points and tips, which enhance the learning experience.

The book has two introductory chapters. The first is an outline of the practical advice for doing the ultrasound examination, types of transducer and transducer movement, and the second is the basic science and technology of ultrasound and the types of ultrasound artefacts produced. A limitation of these chapters and the rest of the book is that there is no reference to compound imaging, Doppler (colour, spectral [pulse] or power), speckle reduction imaging or tissue harmonic imaging. These are necessary facilities to use to obtain high-quality diagnostic images, in a 21st century abdominal ultrasound service. Doppler ultrasound is required for situations such as discrimination between hepatic vessels, cystic lesions and bile ducts, detection, direction of flow and velocities in abdominal blood vessels, within and outside an organ and discrimination between a cystic lesion and an enlarged abdominal lymph node.

Chapters 3 through 12 are divided according to organ and vessel systems, such as hepatobiliary, urinary, splenic, aorta and inferior vena cava. Each chapter uses a coherent and logical style of preliminary remarks, locating the organ or vessel, imaging the

organ, organ details and anatomical relationship. The ultrasound images and 3D schematic diagrams are used to great effect; they allow the learner to appreciate the anatomical relationships of organs and vessels when moving the ultrasound transducer either inferior/superior, medial/lateral, or anterior/posterior. This is helpful for the novice ultrasound practitioner and anatomy demonstrators (lecturers) to gain understanding of applied ultrasound anatomy.

Chapter 13 is a quick guide. It demonstrates a brief review for organs and vessels, the examination targets, locating the structure, standard image slices, organ assessment, normal values, abnormalities/variants and pitfalls.

Chapter 14, as the editor rightly says, is the 'Sono-Consultant', the expert interpretation of the examination. This chapter is designed to give the ultrasound practitioner a systematic approach in interpreting suspicious findings and a way to apply the use of ultrasound to specific clinical questions. This is useful for both the novice to expert medical and non-medical practitioner doing either POCUS in an acute setting, or an in-depth examination, as part of a diagnostic/therapeutic imaging department service.

Chapter 15 considers report writing guidelines and styles, and archiving of images. This is useful for all practitioners, whether acting as a referrer or doing the examination. It is a source to be used for clinical governance.

Abdominal Ultrasound will be beneficial, in conjunction with other similar books and World Federation of Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (www.wfumb.org) links, for undergraduate and postgraduate medical practitioners doing POCUS, student undergraduate and postgraduate ultrasound practitioners in an imaging department and trainee radiologists. It will be a valuable addition to a library in a School of Medicine, an accredited Higher Education Institute Ultrasound Programme, School of Radiology or Radiology Academy, diagnostic and therapeutic imaging department, and a point of care ultrasound service.

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