

## **BRIGHAM AND WOMEN'S HOSPITAL HANDBOOK OF DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING.**

*B.J. McNeil, H.L. Abrams. Boston, Little, Brown and Co., 1985, 450 pp, \$18.00*

The degree of technical complexity in diagnostic imaging has increased markedly over the past several years. It is true, as pointed out in the preface, that the majority of physicians practicing today were trained long before the development of sonographic, modern nuclear medicine, and cat scanning procedures. In addition, procedures like digital angiography and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) are making an impact on clinical practice. It is no surprise that clinicians find it very difficult to digest the rapid growth in this field. A single concise book giving basic parameters in the imaging field was long overdue. Barbara J. McNeil and Herbert L. Abrams recognized the need for such a book and have succeeded in assembling it.

Over the years, radiology has developed into various subspecialties. Each subspecialty offers certain tests for a given situation. Most often these tests are complimentary to each other and most useful when performed in the right sequence. When not used appropriately they can yield duplicate information, thus resulting in waste of time and money. In this handbook, there is a successful attempt to educate the practicing physicians from a clinical point of view. Each chapter is based on a diagnostic problem, presenting an algorithm which outlines the most appropriate patient workup. For each indicated procedure, there is a short discussion which includes the type of information obtained, sensitivity, specificity and drawbacks, if any. At the end there is a list of up to date references for those who are interested in specific details.

In the second section, all the conventional imaging procedures are defined along with a short discussion of technical information. This information helps the clinician to prepare the patient before undergoing a given procedure. The following section is an introduction to magnetic resonance imaging, detailing fundamentals of the technique and the type of information it provides.

One important plus from the handbook is a section on radiation dose to critical organs. A quick reference to radiation dosimetry resulting from various diagnostic procedures can guide the clinician to select the most appropriate one and prevent unnecessary radiation exposure. At the end, the editors have attempted to give an approximate idea of the relative cost of all the current radiological procedures. In this day and age of cost emphasis and the prospective payment system, such information is extremely useful.

The editors have fulfilled their commitment to compile a usable, pocket-sized volume containing information that a clinician could refer to before requesting an imaging procedure. Every resident should carry this book and every nursing station should have it available next to the PDR as a quick reference guide.

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## **NUCLEAR MEDICINE ANNUAL 1985.**

*L. Freeman, H. Weissmann, Eds. New York, Raven Press, 1985, 352 pp, \$55.00*

Each year I look forward to the arrival of the new volume in this series. The editors have always provided a worthwhile book, and 1985 was no exception. After opening with an historical review of clinical nuclear medicine, the 16 contributors cover a variety of topics, primarily clinical in nature.

The first of these chapters is a lengthy, but well thought out discussion of the use of radiopharmaceuticals for the evaluation of inflammatory processes, organized primarily by organ system or tissue type. This chapter gives sufficient details and practical direction (with correlation to other imaging modalities) to be useful for the novice and the experienced imager.

Following this, updates on the use of cholecystokinin analogs as an adjunct in biliary diagnosis, on pulmonary imaging, and on bone scanning in maxillofacial disorders are mixed with reviews of more established topics such as red blood cell imaging for gastrointestinal hemorrhage detection and pediatric gastroesophageal function evaluation.

Cardiac imaging is discussed in two chapters. The first deals with the "basic science" aspects of cardiac nuclear magnetic resonance (magnetic resonance) imaging, and the second has a similar emphasis on technical factors of single photon emission computed tomographic thallium imaging. Though both of these sections cover clinical applications, the details of the procedures will probably be skipped over by the physician who does not perform them. On the other hand, they offer a very good explanation, by way of review and update, for the imager already involved or soon to be involved in these areas. A very well-written chapter on the therapeutic uses of phosphorus-32 completes this edition.

The chapters' bibliographies are, as always, up-to-date and extensive. Image reproductions are good to excellent, and there has been more use of tables than in previous editions (a real help for any review book). The physical construction and printing style remain near perfect and further contribute to the readability of the authors' texts.

In summary, I strongly recommend the *Nuclear Medicine Annual 1985* to all physicians involved in radionuclide imaging. This book should not be bought and placed in a reference library; it should be read.

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## **MUSCULOSKELETAL MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING.**

*E.J. Easton, J.A. Powers. Thorofare, NJ, Slack, Inc., 1985, 166 pp, \$39.50*

The book is a very basic presentation with illustrative magnetic resonance images of musculoskeletal magnetic resonance imaging. It would be fine as an introductory review for medical students, residents, or clinicians that are first