

RADIOBIOLOGY FOR THE RADIOLOGIST. Third Edition.

E.J. Hall, Philadelphia, J.B. Lippincott Company, 1987, 535 pp, \$42.50

The second edition of this classic text was published in 1978. The ensuing decade has seen the implementation of the ICRP 26 effective dose equivalent concept; additional solid tumor data from the Japanese bomb survivors; complete reassessment of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki gamma and neutron dosimetry; a shift from genetic risk to cancer risk as the primary concern in radiation protection; awakened interest in radon; monoclonal antibodies in radionuclide therapy; and the development of oncogene theory. All of these subjects are addressed in this new third edition.

Many chapters have been revised and expanded, some remain pretty much the same, and three new chapters have been added. The new chapters deal with a radiation biologist's perspective on chemotherapy, oncogenes, and radiation protection philosophies. The subject of dose fractionation is discussed much more fully in light of a flurry of recent data. Relative and absolute risk are presented, along with a good summary of the *Drosophila* literature. A significant improvement over the second edition is the addition of a box containing a "Summary of Pertinent Conclusions" at the end of each chapter. I found these summaries comprehensive and concise and quite helpful in reinforcing the chapter's teaching points. The third edition is printed in a new typeface which seemed much more comfortable to read. The textual material continues to be written in the almost conversational, informal style of the earlier editions; it was almost fun to read.

This text is written at an appropriate level for radiation oncologists, diagnostic radiologists, nuclear physicians, and medical scientists, and it should continue to serve as the best available text for radiation biology courses taught in conjunction with physician residency programs and scientist graduate programs. A truly dedicated technologist could probably wade through it, but I wouldn't recommend it for an associate degree or baccalaureate degree technologist training program. If you like to keep a definitive radiation biology reference on your personal bookshelf, this is the best one available today. Nuclear medicine scientists whose responsibilities include radiation safety (operations or teaching) should own a personal copy. Any physician who speaks to professional or lay groups about medical radiation should also own a personal copy. Every nuclear medicine clinic should have a copy available for ready reference. The very modest price (only \$11 more than the second edition, and 75 more pages, even) makes its purchase almost painless.

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GASTROINTESTINAL NUCLEAR IMAGING. (Volume 7, Contemporary Issues in Gastroenterology).

M. G. Velchik, A. Alavi, New York, Churchill Livingstone, Inc., 1988, \$65.00

An up-to-date textbook on Gastrointestinal Nuclear Imaging is definitely of benefit to both the nuclear medicine practitioner, radiologist, gastroenterologist and internist. This is attested to by the fact there is an attempt made currently to form a Council of Nuclear Gastroenterology within The Society of Nuclear Medicine. The contents of this text cover the topics of Salivary Scintigraphy, Gastrointestinal Transit and Reflux Studies, Localization of Ectopic Gastric Mucosa by Scintigraphy, Detection and Localization of Lower Gastrointestinal Bleeding Site, with Scintigraphic Techniques, Liver and Spleen Scintigraphy, Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography of the Liver, Abscess Detection with Radionuclides, LeVeen Shunt Evaluation, Hepatobiliary Scintigraphy, Pediatric Gastroenterology: Liver-Spleen and Gastroesophageal Reflux Imaging, Quantitative Imaging with Radiolabeled Monoclonal Antibodies and Miscellaneous GI Studies: Gastrointestinal Absorption and Loss Studies.

The quality of the paper, print and illustration is very good to excellent. The topics covered encompass the field of gastroenterology. Stated in the preface, the textbook means to address gastroenterologists, internists, radiologists and nuclear medicine physicians. The editors state that this text is a concise up-to-date summary of the nuclear medicine procedures currently available for the diagnostic evaluation of the gastrointestinal tract and that this text will guide gastroenterologists and internists in the diagnostic workup of GI problems, and also serve as a reference summary for radiologists and nuclear medicine physicians.

The quality and in-depth coverage of the various topics and timeliness of the references varies from chapter to chapter. That is, the quality of the topics covered in each of the chapters varies according to the authorship of the chapters. In addition, one of the chapters, "Quantitative Imaging with Radiolabeled Monoclonal Antibodies", is mainly concerned with the authors personal experience. Also, trying to approach such a wide audience may have detracted from the overall quality of the text. The editors also state in the preface wherever possible, algorithms are suggested for the workup of particular clinical problems. This could have been more strongly addressed in the chapters. The "Miscellaneous GI Studies" chapter was quite disappointing.

It is nice to have a textbook on gastrointestinal nuclear imaging and hopefully the editors revised addition will truly fulfill what they have promised in the preface of this issue.

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