

MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING: ATLAS OF THE HEAD, NECK AND SPINE.

C.M. Mills, J. de Grott, J.P. Posin. Philadelphia, Lea & Febiger, 1988, 295 pp, \$98.50

With pleasure I report my review of *Magnetic Resonance Imaging: Atlas of the Head, Neck and Spine* by Mills, de Grott, and Posin. Over the years I have read and reviewed a number of books and at times one had to use extreme diplomacy in order to not over state one's negative feelings about the writing. This book does not require any diplomacy, it is an excellent book and I recommend that it be added to any physician's library who reads MR of the Head, Neck or Spine. The book should also be used by MRI technologists, I will have a copy by the console so that the technologists can have a reference for anatomic positioning and localization. Fellows in MRI should invest in the book but residents are better off using the departments copy since the \$98.50 price tag may be high for most residents. This is a must for all libraries, from divisional thru institutional.

The book is comprehensive with eleven chapters (295 pages and over 800 figures, my estimate) covering the head, neck, cervical, thoracic and lumbar spine in three planes; axial, coronal, and sagittal. Each page is a plane containing MRI and gross section anatomy in addition to a MR image containing the vascular distribution. The number of anatomic structures identified is appropriate without cluttering the figures. The quality of the images is above average for work performed on a .35T and .6T systems. Some of the images containing fine structures lack the sharpness and clarity of 1.5T images but this does not detract from the books quality. The quality of the paper and print is what one would expect for a book of this quality. Indexing is available and well organized. As one would expect there are no references.

Without hesitation I recommend this book. I will keep my copy near the film alternator and I do hope that it will withstand the use that it will receive over the years.

JERRY W. FROELICH
*Harvard Medical School
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts*

NORMAL ANATOMY FOR MULTIPLANAR IMAGING: THE TRUNK AND EXTREMITIES, VOL. 1. NORMAL ANATOMY FOR MULTIPLANAR IMAGING: HEAD, NECK, AND SPINE, VOL. 2.

B. Raval, J.W. Weakley, J.H. Harris Jr. New York, Williams and Wilkins, 1987, 632 pp, \$125.00 per set

Learning anatomy in an old conventional way is not adequate in this day and age. It may suit surgeons, but radiologists and most other medical specialists who often come across cross-sectional images have had to learn or at least be familiar with anatomy in multiple planes. In all the branches of diagnostic imaging—x-ray, magnetic resonance (MR) imaging, sonography, single photon emission computed tomogra-

phy and position emission tomography in nuclear medicine—the patients are studied in multiple planes and their data are presented in multiplanar sections. To some of us, this new technique has become a way of life although for others it will present as new methodology and they will be extremely pleased to have this atlas available in their library.

These two volumes represent a sincere and successful attempt to combine normal computed tomography and MR images from head to toe in an atlas form. The flow of the contents is extremely easy to follow. Each chapter begins with a technical outline detailing format of images, thickness of slices and distance between the two slices, use of contrast agent, and route of administration. The strongest and most favorable feature of these volumes is the line drawings. Each CT/MR image is accompanied by a line drawing executed with extreme thoroughness and clarity. The drawings have considerable anatomic detail and the labeling of structures has made it very simple to follow the radiologic images. The quality of CT images throughout the body is excellent and the reproduction is superb. MR images of head and body are equally good, but those of extremities could have been better. The authors need to be complimented for not attempting to cover up the artifacts. The images are faithfully reproduced so that the readers can correlate their practical experience with the images in the atlas. In addition, for images of the face, both soft-tissue windows and bone windows are used to highlight paranasal sinuses.

The overall qualities of the two volumes make it a "must" for each diagnostic imaging service to have them on their bookshelf for ready reference. All the residents in the medical field would want to refer to them during their training. The atlas has good binding with a hard cover to withstand frequent handling by many people.

RAMESH D. DHEKNE
*Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, Texas*

WOULD THE INSECTS INHERIT THE EARTH? AND OTHER SUBJECTS OF CONCERN TO THOSE WHO WORRY ABOUT NUCLEAR WAR.

*J.C. Greene, D.J. Strom (Health Physics Society).
Washington, DC, Pergamon Professional Publishers, 1988,
35 pp, \$9.95*

This book is a compilation of most frequently asked questions about nuclear weapons, nuclear war, and civil defense. It provides discussions about the forementioned topics by nationally and internationally known people. The content of the book is the spin off from one of the regularly scheduled activities of the Health Physics Society's (HPS) Summer School Planning Committee. The authors solicited, by means of a letter to the editor of the HPS's Newsletter, any suggestions about the subject matter and potential contribution. Many favorable responses were received from several people who identified interesting questions and even volunteered to provide answers.

Most people do not wish for war. The idea of nuclear war is especially frightening. A small portion of people believe in establishing a civil defense; others, however, believe that any kind of defense, civil or military, somehow increases the likelihood of war.

The authors, in an effort to educate the general public by presenting the facts, are simply trying to take a neutral position rather than to argue the above points or counter such extreme beliefs.

Some 34 short reports make the general body of the book. These reports cover the most frequently discussed topics about nuclear war and answers related questions in this respect. The main topics discussed in the book can be divided into five major categories.

A. Nuclear War

1. Potential targets.
2. Home made atomic bomb.
3. Overseas nuclear detonations.

B. Fall-out and Fire Effects

1. Immediate Fire effect.
2. Fall-out prediction by computer modeling.
3. Fall-out from overseas detonations.
4. Natural and man-made protection.

C. Radiation Types and Effects

1. Alpha particles.
2. Neutron bombs.
3. Human immune response.
4. Fall-out effect on livestock.
5. Carcinogenic and genetic effect.
6. Ozone.
7. Insects and nuclear war (reflecting the effective title of the book).

D. Civil Defense

1. Civil defense as a concept.
2. Public attitude towards civil defense.
3. Population relocation.
4. Civil defense research.
5. Soviet civil defense.

E. Radiation Monitoring and Early Warning

1. Army radiation monitoring equipment.
2. Emergency use of radiochemical laboratory equipment.
3. All purpose radiation instrument.

In summary, the book is a very good reference that can be used to educate the general public as well as a good library resource containing answers for many general as well as specific questions about nuclear war and related matter. It comes in 95 pages with nine illustrative tables, a glossary, and a subject index.

ALI M. EMRAN

*University of Texas Medical School
Houston, Texas*

Books Received

Appropriate Diagnostic Technology in the Management of Cardiovascular Diseases (1988). *Report of a WHO Expert Committee. Geneva: World Health Organization Publications. Technical Report Series, No. 772, 41 pp, \$4.80.*