

**Evaluation of Renal Function and Disease with Radiopharmaceuticals: The Upper Urinary Tract.** M. Donald Blaufox, ed., Karger, Switzerland 1989, 418 pp, \$184.75.

This book is a second, completely revised edition of a 1972 work by Dr. Blaufox on the same subject, and provides a comprehensive and current review of renal imaging. The text is sparsely, but appropriately, supported by 120 figures and 42 tables. The illustrations are of good quality, and the legends are generally clear and augment the text.

The first seven chapters review the history and rationale of renal imaging, and provide cogent discussions of radiopharmaceuticals, and of currently accepted techniques of image evaluation and data analysis. Chapters eight through fourteen discuss, in detail, pathologic conditions including hypertension, renal infection and inflammation, obstruction, renal failure, and the evaluation of renal transplants. These discussions are well considered and provide a wealth of practical information for use in clinical practice. Each of the chapters is supported by an exhaustive bibliography. Few readers will have the patience to read all of the references provided, but the long lists will prove useful to those wishing to study topics in greater depth.

The editing of text in this book is spotty and inconsistent—the effect of the book would have been significantly enhanced by style consistency throughout. At least half of the chapters are marred by poor syntax, frequently leaving the reader in a quandary as to meaning. The limited editing is further exemplified by several instances in which information promised fails to appear in the cited chapters.

This volume will prove most useful to the reader needing an extensive grounding in renal imaging, such as nuclear physicians-in-training. It will also be valuable to the physician wishing to update his or her knowledge. Although an adequate index is supplied, the text is less likely to benefit the reader wishing a quick review of selected material.

In conclusion, I recommend this book as a good review of the fundamen-

tals of renal imaging, with a good summary of clinical applications.

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**Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Computed Tomography of the Head and Spine.** C. Barrie Grossman, Williams & Wilkins, Baltimore, 1990, 465 pp, \$125.00.

In writing *Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Computed Tomography of the Head and Spine*, the author aims to compare how MRI and CT depict anatomy and pathology in adults and children—a useful approach, since, nowadays both CT and MRI are often obtained on the same patient in evaluation of a neurological condition. The author, a neuroradiologist, has produced a text that is packed with information, facts, gamuts and pearls accumulated during his clinical career.

The book is divided into four sections. The first, “Basic Technical Considerations,” describes the physics and applications of CT and MRI. The technical aspects of both modalities are briefly reviewed. The chapter on clinical MRI application includes three charts that lack clarity. The author describes the different pulse sequences available for imaging the brain and spinal cord, however, fails to sufficiently stress the basic approach to MRI of the brain, which should begin with spin echo T1 and T2 weighted sequences of the entire brain, the latter cardiac gated and flow compensated for optimal quality.

The second section, “The Brain,” begins with a very good chapter on anatomy and normal variant. Brain neoplasms are well covered, although the MRI appearance at times is poorly described. Chapters on cerebral vascular disorders, trauma, infection, congenital malformations and degenerative disorders follow.

The third section covers the skull, the base of the skull and face. The chapter on the sellar region is excellent, and the other chapters offer a fine, although slightly shallow, review of the region. Finally, the fourth section covers the anatomy, imaging and disorders of the spine, spinal canal and spinal cord thoroughly.

All sections very well integrate normal anatomy and pathology. Overall, the illustrations are excellent with mostly fourth generation CT and high field MRI images. In most instances, the author has omitted to mention the age and clinical presentation of the cases used for illustration—which would add interest to the reader and enhance the learning experience. One typographical error was noted in reference to figure 13.22 F, page 325, which should read 13.21 F. Although written in a concise and clear fashion, the density of information and the uneven fluidity of the text—sometimes one feels that he is reading notes on a topic rather than a well conceived essay—make long readings of the book difficult.

Overall, this is a very good book. Rarely has so much information on MRI and CT of the head and spine been packed in a 450-page volume. While it lacks the depth necessary for a work of reference or for trainees in neuroradiology, it should be an excellent source of information for radiology trainees, radiologists, and for clinicians in the neurosciences.

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**Books Received**

*Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Computed Tomography of the Head and Spine.* C. Barrie Grossman, Williams and Wilkins, 1990, 465 pp, \$125.00

*Atlas of Roentgenographic Measurement (Sixth edition).* Theodore E. Keats, Mosby-Year Book, Inc., 1990, 710 pp, \$89.95

*Advances in Radiopharmacology: Proceedings of the Sixth International Symposium on Radiopharmacology.* Desmond J. Maddalena, Graeme M. Snowdon, and Graeme R. Boniface, eds, Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation—Australia, 314 pp, \$30.00