

TEXTBOOK OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE, VOLUME II: CLINICAL APPLICATIONS.

J. Harbert, A.F.G. Da Rocha, Eds. Philadelphia, Lea & Febiger, 1984, 724 pp, illustrated, \$95.00

Drs. Harbert and Da Rocha have again assembled an impressive list of contributors, many of whom did not participate in the first edition. As the editors state in the Preface to the second edition, they have developed a "more comprehensive textbook of nuclear medicine." This edition is over 200 pages longer than the first and has several new components. The increase has been accomplished through expansion of existing chapters as well as the creation of new chapters including parathyroid and ophthalmologic imaging. The only section to be completely deleted was placental imaging, but other sections, such as pancreatic imaging, have been reduced to more realistically reflect today's practice of nuclear medicine. Many areas have changed dramatically in content. For example, the biliary system section has been completely rewritten to reflect changes in practice from rose bengal to IDA compounds. The musculoskeletal section has more than tripled in length owing to a much more detailed description of this subdiscipline. There has been a very useful increase in descriptions of correlative imaging alternatives, an area that could be even further expanded in this type of text.

The editors have rearranged the new edition into an organ system approach. This shift has left them with some procedures which do not fit neatly into organ groupings, such as abdominal abscesses in the section on "Intestines," but overall organization is clear and usable.

In addition to these organizational changes, the authors have done a good job of updating and generally expanding the reference lists. The index has been slightly expanded and is adequate. A very useful appendix of radiation dose estimates has been added.

The physical construction of the book remains good. There are acceptably few typographical errors. An occasional figure has been mislabeled or inverted, but despite these minor inconveniences, the demonstrated points remain clear. The authors of several sections have continued to use composite images created from multiple small-field-of-view photos for demonstration of certain scans. It would be useful in future editions to replace these with whole-body scans to give students a clearer overview of tracer distribution. The experienced nuclear medicine physician, however, will not be adversely effected by these images.

Basically, the editors have successfully updated what was already a good general text in clinical nuclear medicine. Their expanded format has greatly increased the information content, increased the length by almost 50%, and unfortunately increased the price by 300%. As a text which is probably most appropriate for physicians in training, this increase in cost makes the second edition somewhat different from the first. The earlier edition (1979) filled an empty niche for a moderately priced, up-to-date, general text in nuclear medicine. Coupled with its companion text on basic sciences, it was a logical choice for many levels of trainees and practitioners. The 1984 edition, however, is competing with several other

recent general texts, and though this competition gives the purchaser more styles and formats to compare, it also makes value judgments more difficult because of the variety of contents and prices. While the authors infrequently make specific references to material in their basic science volume, there is information delegated to that volume which is necessary for the practice of "clinical" nuclear medicine. Therefore the purchaser must consider not only the merits of this very good clinical book but also the relative merits of the basic science volume which also has several good competitors. The combined price of the two volumes, \$175, makes this series at least as expensive as many other combinations of clinical and basic science texts.

In summary, the editors have prepared a very good text for clinical nuclear medicine. As a stand-alone entity, however, this volume has some shortcomings in the basic sciences of the day to day practice of nuclear medicine. In combination with a separate text for basic sciences, it would be excellently suited for resident physicians in radiology or nuclear medicine or for physicians practicing nuclear medicine who need solid support in basic science. However, for imagers or referring physicians who are primarily interested in scan interpretation, these deficiencies, coupled with the overall price to acquire a second book to overcome them, may make another text a better choice for the person who wishes to buy only one nuclear medicine text directed toward clinical topics.

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IMAGING IN PEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY.

J.H. Miller, L. White. Baltimore/London, Williams & Wilkins, 1985, 534 pp. \$85.00

As stated in the Preface, "the diagnostic imaging methods (for) the evaluation of neoplasms in children have become very sophisticated. It is hoped that, through their access to the material in this text, both referring physicians and radiologists will increase their knowledge of the various imaging procedures as they apply to pediatric oncology." The editor and his associates have provided a superb compendium of the specialized imaging techniques currently available in clinical practice and it is a must for clinician, radiologist, and house-staff members. The 31 chapters are divided into nine sections. The first section presents the relevance of imaging techniques to the pediatric oncologist, the pediatric surgeon, and the radiation oncologist. The second section introduces the reader to the modalities of computed tomography (CT), ultrasound (US) and nuclear medicine (NM) with a brief chapter concerning the relative role of each and any significant strengths and weaknesses, with the final chapter introducing the reader to the need for integrated imaging.

The third through the eighth sections are a detailed review of pediatric neoplasms and comprise four-fifths of the book. Individual sections deal with: central nervous system; head, neck and thorax; abdomen; genitourinary tract; musculoske-