NUCLEAR MEDICINE IN CLINICAL UROLOGY AND NEPHROLOGY.

W. N. Tauxe, E. V. Dubovsky, Eds. East Norwalk, Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1985, 358 pp, $59.95

This book, appearing in the "Current Practice in Nuclear Medicine" series is edited and authored by a number of the most prominent writers on renal scanning in the United States. In the introduction, Dr. Tauxe relates an interesting history of the evaluation of the kidneys and renal function. He concludes this section by stating that the purpose of this book is to provide for the nuclear medicine practitioner "clear explanations" of the basic sciences pertinent to renal evaluations as well as guidelines for the interpretation and proper use of these principles for clinical evaluations using renal scans and other radionuclide tests. With respect to renal scans and associated parameters of renal function Drs. Tauxe and Dubovsky have succeeded admirably in this goal. Radioimmunoassay is underrepresented. Though the book mentions numerous items briefly, it is not encyclopedic. Clarity and practicality seem to be the keys to the basic science and clinical sections of the book, respectively, with obvious overlap of these principles in both sections.

The text itself consists of 358 pages organized generally into three groups of chapters. The first four chapters deal with the basics of radiopharmaceuticals, dosimetry, and instrumentation as they relate to renal imaging. The radiopharmaceutical chapter is excellent. Though it lists a gamut of renal imaging agents with a brief but adequate description of each of the major classes of radionuclide agents, there is a recognizable emphasis on those radiopharmaceuticals in most common use. The author makes clear statements outlining which agents are experimental and/or not available in the United States. I find this to be quite useful in the routine practice of nuclear medicine. It helps to avoid confusion such as that which arose with DMSA which was listed in multiple articles as the agent of choice for renal cortical imaging for years prior to being routinely commercially available. References for this chapter are also excellent. Dosimetry and instrumentation are adequately covered for a book of this nature.

The next three chapters deal in more detail with the normal physiologic processes involved in glomerular and tubular function as well as a general section on renal pathology and pathophysiology. These seven chapters, plus parts of Chapter 9 dealing with computer applications, provide a strong and very readable background for the clinical chapters that follow and are probably worth the price of the book by themselves.

The third group, Chapters 8 through 17, deals with various specific tests and clinical problems, again with emphasis on the more common disorders. Following an overview in Chapter 8, these sections specifically cover urinary obstruction, renal transplantation, acute and chronic renal failure, DMSA imaging, cystography, and scrotal imaging. The section on evaluation of renal transplant patients is lengthy, but predictably quite good. Though it is mentioned in several areas in the basic science and clinical sections, a chapter on assessment of renovascular disease would be useful for clinicians.

In summary, this book serves its stated purpose of providing a resource for the clinical imager and should be in the library of all nuclear medicine physicians who deal with general imaging of adults or children. Moreover, though perhaps not specifically directed to other audiences, selected chapters should be read by urologists, nephrologists, internists, and pediatricians who deal with the patient problems covered in the book. The quality of the construction of the book is adequate, and the photographic reproductions are quite good. Its length, references, and moderate price make the book attractive, but it is the clear content and organization of the text that gives this book its greatest appeal.

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ESSENTIALS OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE.

M. V. Merrick. New York, Churchill Livingston, Inc., 1984, 312 pp, $24.00

In the preface, Dr. Merrick describes his purpose in writing this volume as "to provide information about the tests which are available, how to perform them and how to interpret the results," and "to provide the reader with an understanding of what can and cannot be achieved." The author has indeed done an outstanding job in fulfilling his stated objectives.

The 300 pages of this book are divided into 11 chapters: The first nine are organized according to organs or systems, and the last two are on tumor and soft tissue and pediatrics. The individual chapters are well organized sharing a common format. Each chapter begins with a description of available radiopharmaceuticals, dosimetry, techniques for dispensing, and instrumentation followed by clinical applications that include examples of normal, and where appropriate, abnormal scans, and interpretation.

Essentials of Nuclear Medicine presents a clear, easy-to-read, and concise overview of the current state of the art in nuclear medicine. Though Dr. Merrick's main focus is on established procedures there is also attention given to applications of newer radiotracers which have not yet received Food and Drug Administration approval for routine use in the United States, including indium-111-labeled leukocytes and platelets, radioiodinated metaiodobenzylguanidine, and *N*-isopropyl-*p*-iodoamphetamine, selenium-75 homocholic acid tauro conjugate (SeHCAT). Recent imaging procedure developments, such as parathyroid scanning using thallium-201 and technetium-99m subtraction techniques are also mentioned. The figures depicting scintigraphic scans, though few, are appropriate and of good quality. Wherever mentioned, radioactivity is expressed both in conventional and in international system equivalent units.

There are some minor flaws that should be mentioned. Although most of the references listed at the end of each chapter are very current, more than 50% of them are limited