NUCLEAR MEDICINE APPLICATIONS TO SURGERY

In the preface, the editors indicate "a need for a simple didactic book to cover the everyday use of nuclear medicine in surgical practice" and, as they planned, they have delivered a hard-bound book which contains a rather simple overview of nuclear medicine procedures. However, what made the editor justify the surgical specialist's need for reading a simply written nuclear medicine text that contains excessive technical information is not clear.

The book consists of 19 chapters. The first two chapters explain the physics and the instruments used in nuclear medicine. Some of the images in these two chapters were reproduced unnecessarily too large in size, costing valuable space for a small review book. In the remaining 17 chapters, organ imaging in adults and children are summarized. The last chapter is allocated for radioimmunoscintigraphy. Each chapter is organized to give clinical indications, technique, interpretation, contraindications, and limitations of procedures.

The book is multiauthored and printed on relatively good quality paper. The images in the clinical sections are rather well reproduced. The book covers not only the anatomic imaging but also time-dependant physiological and functional studies too. However, the book suffers the inherent short comings of a multiauthored book. There are duplications of information and contrary statements in the chapters on certain techniques. The quality of individual chapters varies.

Because of the rapid progress in nuclear medicine in the last two years, some important modification in the techniques are not incorporated in the book. For example, morphine sulfate intervention in patients with nonvisualized gallbladders is not included. Also, such practical techniques which are very often used by surgeons, including differential perfusion lung counts obtained on patients who are undergoing tests for pulmonary resection and lymph drainage studies in melanoma, are not mentioned. In some chapters, too much technical information is given. For example, in Chapter 19, Radioimmunoscintigraphy, 80% of the information is technical and 20% is clinical.

Overall, this book is not edited to aid the surgeon on how to use sophisticated nuclear medicine studies in his practice, but it is authored to introduce nuclear medicine procedures. The surgical specialist after reading this book still may have questions on how, when and where to use these studies. The book provides useful information to physicians to learn about nuclear medicine; however, because of the inconsistency in quality, it is not an indispensable resource with that price.

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1988 YEAR BOOK OF DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY
D.G. Bragg, Ed. Chicago, Year Book Medical Publishers, Inc., 1988, 524 pp, $44.95

The 1988 Year Book of Diagnostic Radiology is one of a series of "year books" that Year Book Medical Publishers produces for 35 medical specialties. These books are based on the premise that there are too many professional journals for any physician to read. The publisher surveys approximately 700 journals; then experts from various specialties and sub-specialities act as editors, choosing important abstracts to include in the book. The editors comment on the abstracts, sometimes telling why a particular article is important or giving more information.

The seven editors of this year book did a very good job of choosing representative articles from the literature. This volume includes abstracts, illustrations from, and comments about 357 articles that were published in 1986 through May 1987. The articles are arranged in chapters: neuroradiology, cardiovascular and interventional radiology, the thorax, the abdomen, the musculoskeletal system, pediatric radiology, and radiation physics. This organization, along with subject and author indexes, makes it possible for a physician who wants to cover an entire radiology sub-speciality to do so or for a physician who has a particular interest to find the pertinent articles without delay. The editorial comments are very important as they keep the volume from being totally dry reading. The comments also give one a feel for issues that are important in each sub-speciality.

The quality of the printing, paper and binding is very good. The images included were high quality. The book is designed for diagnostic radiologists and diagnostic radiology residents who desire an overview of journal articles from a particular time period.

The 1988 Year Book of Diagnostic Radiology is not recommended for nuclear medicine specialists. Any nuclear medicine specialist who had a particular interest in a chapter could skim that chapter in a library. The $44.95 savings could be applied to a more pertinent addition to the nuclear medicine specialist library.

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R.D. Arndt, J.W. Horns, R.H. Gold, Baltimore, Williams & Wilkins, 1985, 281 pp, $62.50

This book deals with the various techniques and interpretations of arthrography. There are individual chapters on arthrography of the knee, shoulder, hip, elbow, wrist, phalangeal joints, and temporomandibular joint. Each section discusses the normal gross anatomy of the respective joints and then compares the single and double contrast methods of joint evaluation. The technical descriptions of the actual procedures are fairly detailed. Potential procedural and interpretive pitfalls are also pointed out.