

Nuclear Medicine: A Teaching File, Datz FL, Patch GG, Arias JM, Morton KA. Mosby Year Book, St Louis, 1992, 249 pp, \$89.00.

This book is a compilation of 201 teaching cases organized into several sections that span the clinical breadth of nuclear medicine, excluding PET and more research-oriented studies. Each case is presented with a brief clinical background, the image findings, the diagnosis and a brief discussion of the pathology.

The case discussions are generally well done, although occasionally repetitive. Most discussions stopped short of placing nuclear medicine procedures in the context of alternative imaging methods, such as MRI, CT and newer radiopharmaceuticals. The neophyte should not assume that the space allotted to a particular technique parallels its relative importance in modern clinical practice. For example, the "four phase" bone scan is emphasized with little attention paid to the use of ^{111}In -labeled white cells in osteomyelitis. A somewhat anachronistic emphasis is placed on the cardiac applications of $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ -pyrophosphate, hepatic uses of sulfur colloid and renal applications of ^{131}I -hippuran. Again, for the tenderfoot imager, the robust "grain of salt" with which most sensitivity and specificity figures must be taken is generally omitted. Minor cavils aside, however, I enjoyed reading the book and look forward to expansions in future editions.

I would recommend this book to the radiology resident during his or her second or third rotation in nuclear medicine, after a groundwork has been laid by reading a standard textbook in the field. It should also be of value to the nuclear medicine fellow during the first year of training.

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Handbook of Nuclear Medicine: Volume 2: Heart, Adam WE, ed. Gustav Fischer Verlag, Stuttgart & New York, 1992, 466 pp, 420 DM.

This remarkably well-referenced and inclusive textbook is probably as "state of the art" as possible for an imaging textbook, particularly in a field whose landscape is continually modified by new discoveries. Largely written by authors from Germany and the United States, each author writes in an area of acknowledged expertise.

The first section of the book discusses the anatomic and physiologic principles underlying ventricular function. This is followed by sections describing instrumentation, radiopharmaceuticals and exercise testing in patients with coronary disease. Most of the book is devoted to the clinical applications of cardiac imaging studies. The general techniques of gated equilibrium and first-pass imaging, myocardial perfusion, PET and SPECT evaluation of myocardial metabolism are exhaustively described. Specific clinical applications include the assessment of patients with valvular and congenital heart disease, the evaluation of conduction abnormalities, uses in the peripheral circulation, in children and in the intensive care unit.

Most of the chapters are current to about 1990, an impressive feat for a multi-authored text. The text is well-illustrated, although most of the illustrations impart factual knowledge and the book does not attempt to provide a clinical atlas of images. Its greatest shortcoming is the unfortunate number of spelling errors, largely related to translation from the German. Fortunately, these are largely an aesthetic problem and detract only slightly from the excellence of the presentations.

This book belongs in the reference library of any radiology or nuclear medicine program. While too in-depth for most radiology residents, the book would admirably serve second year nuclear medicine fellows and practicing physicians, whether clinical or research-oriented. I highly recommend it.

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