

Book Review

Atlas of Endocrine Imaging, edited by G.M. Besser and M.O. Thorner. Pp. 149, illustrated. Wolfe, London, St Louis, Sydney, Toronto, 1993. Hardback, £40.00.

Medical imaging includes sonography, computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, isotope imaging, digital angiography and radiography. Whilst radiography had only a very limited role in the diagnosis of endocrine disease, the various scanning methods now play an essential part in localizing the morphological abnormality. Radiography displayed a large number of abnormalities but added little of diagnostic relevance as these were merely reflections of obvious clinical signs such as acromegalic spade-like hands, prognathism and large frontal sinuses.

Now normal endocrine glands, hyperplasia, adenomas and carcinomas can be visualized and ectopic glands can be demonstrated. The superb illustrations in this slim volume provide clear examples of many areas where imaging plays a significant role in the management of these complex clinical problems.

The middle of the three sections of this work is on the pituitary and hypothalamus and shows the appearances of the normal as well as the different pathologies as they

affect the gland and the adjacent structures. The ability to distinguish the posterior lobe with its high intensity signal on MRI is a measure of its discriminating power and, as demonstrated, aneurysms can be diagnosed and localized without recourse to needles or catheters. The text is lucid and relevant, being a fitting companion to the textbook examples of both the common and uncommon conditions so beautifully illustrated. The first section deals with radiography in general and the last section is on nuclear medicine.

Thus the prime function of this work as an atlas has been fulfilled in that the high-quality reproductions of the well-chosen examples are clearly annotated with the addition of line drawings. This volume, slim though it may be, can be recommended as making a valuable addition to endocrine and radiology departments to show gold standard examples of medical imaging in endocrine disease.

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