

Imaging the digestive tract in infants and children by S. Stafrace and J. G. (Hans) Blickman (eds)

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The paediatric digestive tract is a complex, multifaceted organ. Imaging requires a structured approach that is tailored to the section of the digestive tract under review. Many parts of the digestive tract are referred to as a ‘black box’ by our clinician colleagues and it is often the role of the radiologist to demonstrate pathology in areas that endoscopes cannot reach.

This book aims to address the imaging of this complex organ in children. The updated second edition of Dr. Blickman’s book includes a new editor in Dr. Hans Samuel Stafrace. The 15 expert authors hail from Europe, America and the Middle East; there is strong representation from the Sidra Hospital in Qatar.

Type of book This is a comprehensive reference text dedicated to the radiology of the paediatric digestive tract.

Contents The book begins with comprehensive chapters on imaging techniques, gastrointestinal emergencies in neonates and infants and gastrointestinal emergencies in older children. It then proceeds to chapters sequentially addressing the digestive tract from mouth to anus. A wide range of pathologies are covered, and relevant anatomy is accurately described and beautifully rendered in diagrams. The chapters are well-

written and comprehensive. There is a wide range of interesting images that are of generally high quality. Where relevant, the full gamut of available imaging techniques is described and critically evaluated for their value in the conditions and locations described.

Strengths The layout of the chapters is excellent. The text is well-written and the range of expertise is broad. The vast majority of the images are clear and well presented. The print quality of the reviewer’s copy was of a high standard. Multiple diagrams are well laid-out and easy to understand.

Weaknesses Perhaps because of the inclusion of chapters on gastrointestinal emergencies, there is considerable duplication of information. For example, intussusception and appendicitis are addressed twice in two large sections. The duplicated content does not vary too much allowing for differences in writing style between the authors. Some chapters are stronger than others. For example, some chapter sections rely very heavily on single references for topics that are extensively covered in the literature.

Recommendation This is a well-written book with an excellent layout, which addresses its topic in excellent detail. I would recommend it to paediatric radiology trainees as a complete text on gastrointestinal imaging in children. It would also suit the more experienced reader as a quick reference guide.

Overall grade: Very good

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Compliance with ethical standards

Conflicts of interest None