
A.M.K. Thomas, A.K. Banerjee, U. Busch

Classic Papers in Modern Diagnostic Radiology

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EDITORS

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Foreword by Willi A. Kalender, Erlangen

 Springer

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ISBN 3-540-21927-7 Springer Berlin Heidelberg New York

Library of Congress Control Number: 2004110773

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Printed in Germany

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Editor: Dr. U. Heilmann, Heidelberg, Germany
Desk editor: W. McHugh, Heidelberg, Germany
Production: PRO EDIT GmbH, Heidelberg, Germany
Cover-Design: Frido Stein-Broo, Pau, Spain
Typesetting and Reproduction: AM-productions GmbH, Wiesloch, Germany

Printed on acid-free paper 21/3150Di - 5 4 3 2 1 0

Dedications

For my father Professor P. K. Thomas
Adrian M.K. Thomas

For my daughters Shonali and Shiuli
Arpan K. Banerjee

For my family Ulrike, Bjoern, Florian and Alina
Uwe Busch

Foreword

I am very pleased to have been asked to write the foreword to this book. The technical advances in diagnostic radiology in the last few decades have transformed clinical practice and have been nothing short of astonishing.

The subject of diagnostic radiology is now very large and radiology departments are involved in all areas of modern patient care. The defining event in modern radiology, and arguably the most significant development in radiology since Wilhelm Röntgen discovered X-rays, was the invention of the CT scanner in the 1970s. The CT scanner introduced modern cross-sectional imaging and also digital imaging. We now have MRI and ultrasound and these techniques are replacing many traditional X-ray procedures. The developments in radiology have been the result of a fruitful interaction between the basic sciences, clinical medicine and the manufacturers. This can be seen by looking at the various sources of these publications. Change is produced by the interactions between the various disciplines.

The editors have had a very difficult task in selecting the key discoveries and descriptions. The radiological literature is very large. Medical imaging continues to develop rapidly and these papers are the foundations of our current practice.

Prof. Dr. Willi A. Kalender
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Preface

In the past few decades the practice of diagnostic radiology has been transformed almost beyond recognition. In traditional radiological practice, diagnostic techniques often showed the pathology indirectly; for example, the presence of a pancreatic pseudocyst could be inferred by the displacement of a barium-filled stomach. Diagnostic tests were often invasive and these would then be followed by conventional surgery. We are now moving to a position where diagnosis is made by a non-invasive imaging procedure and treatment is by minimally invasive surgery. Performing angiography for placental localization and even the traditional oral cholecystogram are now only memories. The patient who needs surgery will have had appropriate imaging so the surgeon can plan the most effective course of action and may also suggest that surgery is not the most appropriate course of action.

It is always interesting to read about the great names who have by their discoveries advanced the practice of clinical medicine. There have been a number of books which have given the original descriptions of the writers, such as the "Classic Descriptions of Disease" by Ralph Major and the "Source Book of Medical History" compiled by Logan Glendenning. The sources of both of these books reach back into antiquity. The history of radiology is considerably younger and is a little more than 100 years old, having started with the discovery of X-rays by Wilhelm Röntgen in 1895. André Bruwer did the radiological community a great service when in 1964 he produced his two volumes of "Classic Descriptions in Diagnostic Roentgenology". In these two books he reproduced the classic accounts of diagnostic radiology from the earliest days and gave an account of the techniques that were then in use. Radiology has transformed beyond all recognition since 1964. We now have ultrasound, CT, MRI and interventional radiology. The traditional contrast media have been replaced by the modern agents and X-ray film is disappearing and is being replaced by an electronic image. However, radiology remains central to modern patient care.

In this book we provide a selection of classic papers of modern radiology. The choice of papers is obviously personal; however, we feel that the papers chosen have stood the test of time. There are many important papers that have not been included. In this book the papers are reproduced in their original form so that the reader is able to read what was originally said. In the introduction to each section the significance of the paper is discussed with some biographical details where appropriate. Nuclear medicine has not been included.

In general there is a bias towards the more technical papers. However, the articles chosen have resulted in many clinical papers. It is when the papers are brought together that the extent of the achievements of clinical radiology becomes apparent.

Adrian M. K. Thomas
Arpan K. Banerjee
Uwe Busch

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Ute Heilmann and her colleagues at Springer for their encouragement and support for this project. Furthermore, we would like to thank the following people for their help in providing us with information for our book: Torsten Almén, Robert Brasch, Ruediger Brennecke, Brigitte Bukovics, Lawrence Cheung, Jim Culley, Lars Edler, Dave Fellers, Leila Gray, Brian Lentle, Shannon Hamilton, Paul Heintzen, Kazuhiro Hishinima, Hans-Joachim Holländer, Stephen Horii, The late Sir Godfrey Hounsfield, Bernie Huang, Lothar Jeromin, Willi Kalender, Stuart S Kaplan, Hisatoyo Kato, Gerald M. Kolodny, Robert A. Kruger, Paul Lauterbur, José Leborgne, Denny Lee, Heinz U. Lemke, Betty Levine, Sir Peter Mansfield, Charles A. Mistretta, Peter R. Mueller, Sol Nudelman, John A. Parker, Stephen H. Parker, Jean Pringot, John Reid, The late Neil Ridyard, Stephen J. Riederer, John Rowlands, Ulrich Sigwart, Ralph Smathers, Eric vanSonnenberg, Lászlo K. Tabár, René van Tiggelen, Peter Vock, Hans-Joachim Weinmann, Nellie Wild, Joseph Woo, and Wei Zhao.

Our special thanks for granting us permission to use the original papers free of charge are extended to:

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Contents

1 Computer Tomography

- 1.1 **Über die Bestimmung von Funktionen durch ihre Integralwerte längs gewisser Mannigfaltigkeiten** 5
J. Radon
- 1.2 **Representation of a function by its line integrals, with some radiological applications** 23
A.M. Cormack
- 1.3 **Computerized transverse axial scanning (tomography). Part I. Description of system** 30
G.N. Hounsfield
- 1.4 **Computerized transverse axial scanning (tomography). Part II. Clinical application** 38
J. Ambrose
- 1.5 **Spiral volumetric CT with single-breathhold technique, continuous transport, and continuous scanner rotation** 64
W.A. Kalender, W. Seißler, E. Klotz, P. Vock

2 Magnetic Resonance Imaging

- 2.1 **Measurement of nuclear spin by the method of molecular beams** 73
I.I. Rabi, V.W. Cohen
- 2.2 **Nuclear Induction** 81
F. Bloch, W.W. Hansen, M.E. Packard
- 2.3 **Resonance absorption by nuclear magnetic moments in a solid** 84
E.M. Purcell, H.C. Torrey, R.V. Pound
- 2.4 **Tumor detection by nuclear magnetic resonance** 87
R.V. Damadian
- 2.5 **Image Foundation by induced local interactions: Example employing nuclear magnetic resonance** 93
P.C. Lauterbur
- 2.6 **Planar spin imaging by NMR** 96
P. Mansfield, A.A. Maudsley
- 2.7 **Medical Imaging by NMR** 103
P. Mansfield, A.A. Maudsley

2.8	Human whole body line scan imaging by NMR <i>P. Mansfield, I.L. Pykett, P.G. Morris, R.E. Coupland</i>	111
2.9	NMR imaging of the brain in multiple sclerosis <i>I.R. Young, A.S. Hall, C.A. Pallis et al.</i>	114
2.10	MRI: Clinical use of the inversion recovery sequence <i>G.M. Bydder, I.R. Young</i>	119

3 Ultrasound

3.1	Über die Möglichkeit, hochfrequente mechanische Schwingungen als diagnostische Mittel zu verwerten <i>K.T. Dussik</i>	144
3.2	The application of echo ranging techniques to the detection of structure of biological tissues <i>J.J. Wild, J.M. Reid</i>	162
3.3	The use of ultrasonic Reflectoscope for the continuous recording of the movements of heart walls <i>I. Edler, C.H. Hertz</i>	170
3.4	The ultrasonic visualization of soft tissue structures in the human body <i>J.H. Holmes, D.H. Howry, G.J. Posakony, C.R. Cushman,</i>	193
3.5	Investigation of Abdominal Masses by Pulsed Ultrasound <i>I. Donald, J. MacVicar, T.G. Brown</i>	213
3.6	Ultrasonic Doppler method for the inspection of cardiac functions <i>S. Satomura</i>	224
3.7	Neue Möglichkeiten der Ultraschalldiagnostik in der Gynäkologie und Geburtshilfe <i>D. Hofmann, H.-J. Holländer, P. Weiser</i>	230
3.8	The prediction of fetal maturity by ultra-sonic measurement of the biparietal diameter <i>S. Campbell</i>	236
3.9	Development of an ultrasonic system for three-dimensional reconstruction of the fetus <i>K. Baba, K. Satoh, S. Sakamoto, T. Okai, S. Ishii</i>	245

4 Digital Imaging

- 4.1 **Digital Processing of Videoangiocardigraphic Image Series** 257
R. Brennecke, T.K. Brown, J.H. Bürsch, P.H. Heintzen
- 4.2 **Computerized fluoroscopy in real time for noninvasive visualization of the cardiovascular system** 266
R.A. Kruger, C.A. Mistretta, S.J. Riederer, C.G. Shaw et al.
- 4.3 **Intravenous angiography using digital video subtraction: X-ray imaging system** 278
T.W. Ovitt, P.C. Christenson, H.D. Fisher 3rd, M.M. Frost, S. Nudelman, H. Roehrig
- 4.4 **Computed radiography utilizing scanning laser stimulated luminescence** 289
M. Sonoda, M. Takano, J. Miyahara, H. Kato
- 4.5 **Digital radiography of the chest: clinical experience with a prototype unit** 298
R.G. Fraser, E. Breatnach, G.T. Barnes
- 4.6 **A new digital detector for projection radiography** 304
D.L. Lee, L.K. Cheung, L.S. Jeromin
- 4.7 **X-ray imaging using amorphous selenium: Feasibility of a flat panel self-scanned detector for digital radiology** 319
W. Zhao, J.A. Rowlands

5 PACS

- 5.1 **Applications of Picture Processing, Image Analysis and Computer Graphics Techniques to Cranial CT Scans** 334
H.U. Lemke, H.S. Stiehl, H. Scharnweber, D. Jackél
- 5.2 **An All-digital Nuclear Medicine Department** 349
J.A. Parker, H.D. Royal, R.F. Uren, D. Front, J.G. Bliss, M. Rabussi, D. Jansons, M.S. Kolodny, G.M. Kolodny
- 5.3 **Digital Radiology at the University of California, Los Angeles: A Feasibility Study** 358
H.K. Huang, Z. Barbaric, N.J. Mankovich, C. Moler
- 5.4 **Assessment of the Integration of HIS/RIS with a PACS** 367
B.A. Levine, S.K. Mun, H.R. Benson, S.C. Horii
- 5.5 **Environmental Designs for Reading from Imaging Workstations: Ergonomic and Architectural Features** 377
S.C. Horii et al.

6 Contrast Agents

- 6.1 **Contrast agent design. Some aspects on the synthesis of water-soluble contrast agents of low osmolality** 391
T. Almén
- 6.2 **Development of nonionic contrast media** 403
T. Almén
- 6.3 **Intravenous chelated gadolinium as a contrast agent in NMR imaging of cerebral tumours** 412
D.H. Carr, J. Brown, G.M. Bydder, H.-J. Weinmann, U. Speck, D.J. Thomas, I.R. Young
- 6.4 **Characteristics of gadolinium-DTPA complex: a potential NMR contrast agent** 416
H.-J. Weinmann, R.C. Brasch, W.-R. Press, G.E. Wesbey
- 6.5 **Contrast-enhanced NMR imaging: animal studies using gadolinium-DTPA complex** 423
R.C. Brasch, H.-J. Weinmann, G.E. Wesbey

7 Angiography and Interventional Radiology

- 7.1 **Catheter replacement of the needle in percutaneous arteriography: A new technique** 437
S.I. Seldinger
- 7.2 **Percutaneous trocar (needle) nephrostomy in hydronephrosis** 447
W.E. Goodwin, W.C. Casey, W. Woolf
- 7.3 **Cine coronary arteriography** 452
F.M. Sones, E.K. Shirey, W.L. Proudfit, R. Westcott
- 7.4 **Mesenteric Arteriography** 455
A.R. Margulis, P. Heinbecker
- 7.5 **Transluminal treatment of arteriosclerotic obstruction: description of a new technique and a preliminary report of its application** 467
C.T. Dotter, M.P. Judkins
- 7.6 **Selective coronary arteriography** 485
M.P. Judkins
- 7.7 **Non-operative retained biliary tract stone extraction. A new roentgenologic technique** 496
H.J. Burhenne
- 7.8 **Perkutane Rekanalisation chronischer arterieller Verschlüsse mit einem neuen Dilatationskatheter** 509
A.R. Grüntzig, H. Hopff

7.9	Transluminal dilatation of coronary-artery stenosis <i>A.R. Grüntzig</i>	514
7.10	Percutaneous biliary drainage, technical and catheter related problems in 200 procedures <i>P.R. Mueller, E. van Sonnenberg, J.T. Ferrucci</i>	516
7.11	Expandable intrahepatic portacaval shunt stents: early experience in the dog <i>J.C. Palmaz, R.R. Sibbitt, S.R. Reuter et al.</i>	525
7.12	Intravascular stents to prevent occlusion and restenosis after transluminal angioplasty <i>U. Sigwart, J. Puel et al.</i>	531

8 Mammography

8.1	Diagnóstico de los tumores de la mama por la radiografía simple <i>R. Leborgne</i>	545
8.2	La radiographie de la glande mammaire <i>C.M. Gros, R. Sigrist</i>	564
8.3	Experience with mammography in tumor institution: evaluation of 1000 studies <i>R.L. Egan</i>	608
8.4	Evaluation of periodic breast cancer screening with mammography. Methodology and early observations <i>S. Shapiro, L. Venet, P. Strax</i>	616
8.5	Xerography of the breast <i>J.N. Wolfe</i>	626
8.6	Reduction in mortality from breast cancer after mass screening with mammography <i>L. Tabár, C.J.G. Fagerberg, A. Gad, L. Baldetorp, L.H. Holmberg, O. Grönroft et al.</i>	635
8.7	Mammographic Microcalcifications: Detection with Xerography, Screen-Film, an Digitized Film Display <i>R.L. Smathers et al.</i>	645
8.8	Breast imaging: Dual-energy projection radiography with digital radiography <i>T. Asaga, S. Chiyasu, S. Matsuda, H. Mastuura, H. Kato, M. Ishida, T. Komaki</i>	651
8.9	Stereotactic breast biopsy with a biopsy gun <i>S.H. Parker, J.D. Lovin, W.E. Jobe, J.M. Luethke, K.D. Hopper, W.F. Yakes, B.J. Burke</i>	656
	References	665

Authors Index

- Almén T 392, 403
Ambrose J 39
Asaga T 654
- Baba K 246
Baldetorp L 637
Barbaric Z 360
Barnes GT 299
Benson HR 369
Bliss JG 352
Bloch F 83
Brasch RC 417, 425
Breatnach E 299
Brennecke R 259
Brown BW 646
Brown J 413
Brown TG 217
Brown TK 259
Burhenne HJ 497
Burke BJ 657
Bürsch JH 259
Bush E 646
Bydder GM 115, 120, 413
- Campbell S 236
Carr DH 413
Casey WC 448
Cheung LK 307
Chiyasu S 654
Christenson PC 281
Cohen VW 75
Cormack AM 24
Coupland RE 112
Crummy AB 269
Cushman CR 197
- Damadian RV 89
Donald I 217
Dotter CT 468
Drace J 646
Dussik KT 146
- Edler I 174
Egan RL 609
- Fagerberg CJG 637
Ferrucci JT 518
Fisher HD 3rd 281
- Flemming D 269
Fraser RG 299
Front D 352
Frost MM 281
- Gad A 637
Goodsitt MM 269
Goodwin WE 448
Gröntoft O 637
Gros CM 565
Grüntzig AR 510, 515
- Hall AS 115
Hansen WW 83
Heinbecker P 456
Heintzen PH 259
Hertz CH 174
Hofmann D 231
Holländer H-J 231
Holmberg LH 637
Holmes JH 197
Houk TL 269
Hopff H 510
Hopper KD 657
Horii SC 369, 378
Hounsfield GN 31
Howry DH 197
Huang HK 360
- Ishida M 654
Ishii S 246
- Jackél D 335
Jansons D 352
Jeromin LS 307
Jobe WE 657
Joffre F 532
Judkins MP 468, 486
- Kalender WA 66
Kappenberger L 532
Karras B 646
Kato H 292
Kato H 654
Klotz E 66
Kolodny GM 352
Kolodny MS 352
Komaki T 654
Kruger RA 269

-
- Lancaster JC 269
Lauterbur PC 94
Leborgne R 546
Lee DL 307
Legg NJ 115
Lemke HU 335
Levine BA 369
Ljungquist U 637
Lovin JD 657
Luethke JM 657
Lundström B 637
- MacVicar J 217
Mankovich NJ 360
Mansfield P 98,104,112
Månson JC 637
Margulis AR 456
Mastuura H 654
Matsuda S 654
Maudsley AA 98,104
Mirkovitch V 532
Mistretta CA 269
Miyahara J 292
Moler C 360
Morris PG 112
Mueller PR 518
Mun SK 369
- Nudelman S 281
- Okai T 246
Ovitt TW 281
- Packard ME 83
Pallis CA 115
Palmas JC 526
Parker JA 352
Parker SH 657
Posakony GJ 197
Pound RV 85
Press WR 417
Proudfit WL 453
Puel J 532
Purcell EM 85
Pykett IL 112
- Rabi II 75
Rabussi M 352
Radon J 6
Reid JM 166
Reuter SR 526
Riederer SJ 269
Roehrig H 281
- Rowe GG 269
Rowlands JA 321
Royal HD 352
- Sakamoto S 246
Satoh K 246
Satomura S 225
Scharnweber H 335
Seißler W 66
Seldinger SI 438
Shapiro S 617
Shaw CG 269
Shirey EK 453
Sibbitt RR 526
Sigrist R 565
Sigwart U 532
Smathers RL 646
Sommer FG 646
Sonnenberg E, van 518
Sones FM 453
Sonoda M 292
Speck U 413
Steiner RE 115
Stevens M 646
Stiehl HS 335
Strax P 617
- Tabár L 637
Takano M 292
Tio FO 526
Torrey HC 85
- Uren RF 352
- Venet L 617
Vock P 66
- Weinmann HJ 413
Weinmann HJ 413, 417, 425
Weiser P 231
Wesbey GE 417, 425
Westcott R 453
Wild JJ 166
Wolfe JN 626
Woolf W 448
- Yakes WF 657
Young IR 115
Young IR 115, 112, 413
Young IR 413
- Zhao W 321
Zwiebel W 269