EMERGENCY RADIOLOGY – Imaging and Intervention

With 483 Figures, 25 in Color and 49 Tables
Why write a book on emergency radiology? In many countries, hospital emergency departments have become a major part of the healthcare safety net. In the last decade economically-driven structural changes in health care delivery have caused a dramatic increase in emergency department visits. In response to capacity and staffing pressures, hospitals are developing and implementing a variety of strategies designed to improve patient flow and reduce overcrowding in the emergency department. Several factors are considered critical for success, such as having the right multidisciplinary teams in place and optimizing the use of imaging tests. For a critical care physician it is paramount to obtain the images quickly and for them to be interpreted accurately.

To accomplish this, the emergency radiology division should be located adjacent to or within the emergency department. High quality emergency radiology services combine state-of-the art equipment and unsurpassable expertise available 24 hours a day. The demands for radiologists with specific knowledge in diagnostic and interventional emergency radiology is continuously increasing. The emergency radiology services should be equipped with sophisticated imaging (especially Multidetector Computed Tomography, MDCT) and information technologies (Picture Archiving and Communication System, PACS). The rapid development of MDCT technology has dramatically changed CT applications. In many imaging centers the volume of MDCT scans is growing at least 10% annually while the number of radiographic studies decline. There is an increasing trend towards the use of MDCT to evaluate traumatic injuries and non-traumatic emergencies. The use of workstations for reporting and for further image reconstruction becomes standard practice.

On the occasion of the European Congress of Radiology (ECR) 2003 and 2004 a Categorical Course on “Emergency Radiology” has been organized to assess current developments and concepts in this rapidly growing field. Numerous radiologists, all outstanding and internationally renowned experts in their field, have made superb contributions in an ECR syllabus. These authors have now made a second effort and updated their contributions for this book. The chapters in the book mirror the topics presented in the ECR course, encompassing imaging approaches as well as interventional aspects. A separate section is devoted to pediatric emergencies.

We would like to express our thanks and appreciation to all contributors for their excellent written material. This comprehensive work would not have been accomplished without their enthusiasm.

We hope this book will be a “Go-To” reference to general radiologists who have to deal with traumatic and non-traumatic emergencies. Similarly, it should serve as reference for emergency medicine physicians. Finally, radiology residents should find this book useful when covering the emergency department.

Zurich                  Borut Marincek
Liège                   Robert F. Dondelinger
As emergency medicine continues to evolve as a formal clinical discipline, the need for emergency radiology to be integrated in its four essential fields of action, including clinical practice, a defined body of knowledge, a rigorous training program, and an active research environment are of primary importance.

Radiological diagnosis and management presently play an instrumental role in providing the highest standards of care in the acutely ill or multitrauma patient who enters the emergency department, and it is imperative that radiologists and other clinicians be well aware and adequately informed of the actual trends and concepts, as well as the latest advances, in this rapidly growing field.

The book provides unique and authentic descriptions of the role of imaging and intervention in practically all facets of traumatic and non-traumatic, as well as acute and life-threatening, conditions of modern medicine.

The book is divided into seven sections. Following introductory in-depth coverage of the present use of 3D imaging in the dedicated emergency room and the role of imaging in the management of polytrauma patients, the book describes in great detail imaging and intervention of all common, and less common, traumatic and non-traumatic neurological, thoracic, abdominal, gastrointestinal, pelvic, musculoskeletal, vascular, and pediatric emergencies.

The editors, Borut Marincek and Robert Dondelinger, are internationally renowned authorities with unparalled clinical experience in emergency radiology. In addition to writing their own contributions to several individual chapters, they have been very successful in involving a number of leading specialists in the field, from both Europe and the United States, who convey a breadth and depth of experience and insight, and enrich our understanding and capabilities of imaging and intervention in emergency medicine.

I congratulate the editors and all the distinguished contributors to this comprehensively written and superbly illustrated volume, most sincerely, for their outstanding work. I am confident that this excellent book will meet with success among specialists in all disciplines involved in emergency medicine, and will serve as the main reference source in the field.

Nick C. Gourtsoyiannis, MD, PhD, FRCR (Hon)
Heraklion, 22 May 2006
SECTION ONE
Emergency Radiology: Role of Imaging

1.1 Role of Imaging in the Management of Trauma Victims
1.1.1 Introduction ........................................ 3
1.1.2 Imaging Algorithms for Trauma Patients .... 3
1.1.3 Sonography ........................................ 7
1.1.4 CT Scan .......................................... 8
1.1.5 Follow-up Imaging during Conservative Treatment .......................... 18
References ............................................. 20

1.2 Role of 3D Imaging in the Emergency Room
L. Husmann, S. Leschka, H. Alkadhi, S. Wildermuth
1.2.1 Introduction ........................................ 25
1.2.2 Imaging ............................................. 25
1.2.3 Conclusion .......................................... 35
References ............................................. 35

SECTION TWO
Traumatic Injuries: Imaging and Intervention

2.1 Hemostatic Arterial Embolization in Trauma Victims at Admission
R.F. Dondelinger, G. Trotteur, B. Ghaye
2.1.1 Introduction ........................................ 41
2.1.2 Classification of Trauma Patients ........ 41
2.1.3 Trauma Patient Triage with Computed Tomography ......................... 45
2.1.4 Indications of Therapeutic Arteriography ................................ 47
2.1.5 Arteriographic Demonstration of Posttraumatic Hemorrhage .......... 48
2.1.6 Arteriographic Hemostatic Embolization Technique ........................ 48
2.1.7 Organ-Specific Hemostatic Embolization ................................... 51
2.1.8 Conclusion .......................................... 58
References ............................................. 58

2.2 Imaging and Intervention in Post-traumatic Complications (Delayed Intervention)
P.P. Goffette
2.2.1 Introduction ........................................ 61
2.2.2 Liver and Bile Ducts .................................. 62
2.2.3 Spleen .................................................. 75
2.2.4 Pancreas .............................................. 83
2.2.5 Kidneys, Adrenals, Urinary Bladder ............................... 86
2.2.6 Gastrointestinal Tract .................................. 88
2.2.7 Vascular Complications ................................ 89
2.2.8 Diaphragm ............................................. 92
2.2.9 Conclusion ............................................ 92
References ............................................. 92

2.3 Imaging of Head Injuries
N. Bešenski
2.3.1 Introduction ........................................ 99
2.3.2 Clinical Findings .................................... 99
2.3.3 Imaging ............................................... 100
2.3.4 Biomechanical Considerations of Brain Injury ................................. 102
2.3.5 Classification of Brain Injury ................................ 108
2.3.6 Closed-Head Injury ................................... 109
2.3.7 Imaging of Diffuse Axonal Injury (Shearing Injury) .................... 114
2.3.8 Early Secondary Lesions in Brain Injury ................................ 118
2.3.9 Late Sequelae of Trauma ................................ 120
2.3.10 Conclusion ........................................... 122
References ............................................. 123

2.4 Imaging of Facial Injuries
U. Salvolini, G. Polonara, S. Salvolini
2.4.1 Introduction ........................................ 125
2.4.2 Imaging ............................................... 125
2.4.3 Nasal Fractures ....................................... 127
2.4.4 Complex Midfacial Fractures ................................ 128
2.4.5 Isolated Fractures ..................................... 131
2.4.6 Foreign Bodies and Penetrating Injuries ................................ 133
2.4.7 Complex Facial Fractures ................................ 133
2.4.8 Mandibular Fractures .................................. 136
2.4.9 Conclusion ............................................ 138
References ............................................. 138
### Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>Imaging of Spinal Injuries</td>
<td>H. Imhof</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5.1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5.2</td>
<td>Injury Assessment and Imaging</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5.3</td>
<td>Imaging</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5.4.</td>
<td>Classification</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>Imaging of Thoracic Injuries</td>
<td>G. Gavelli, G. Napoli, P. Bertaccini, G. Battista, R. Fattori</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.6.1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.6.2</td>
<td>Clinical and Imaging Findings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.6.3</td>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>Vascular Injuries of the Thorax: Multi-Detector-Row CT and 3D Imaging</td>
<td>H. Alkadhi, S. Leschka, S. Wildermuth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7.1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7.2</td>
<td>Clinical Findings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7.3</td>
<td>Imaging</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7.4</td>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>Imaging of Abdominal and Pelvic Injuries</td>
<td>S. Leschka, H. Alkadhi, L. Husmann, S. Wildermuth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.8.1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.8.2</td>
<td>Clinical Findings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.8.3</td>
<td>Imaging</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.8.4</td>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>Imaging and Intervention of Large Arterial Trauma</td>
<td>M. Schoder, M. Prokop, J. Lammer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.9.1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.9.2</td>
<td>Supraaortic Arch Vessels</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.9.3</td>
<td>Pelvic Arteries and Lower Limbs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.9.4</td>
<td>Thoracic Aorta</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.9.5</td>
<td>Abdominal Aorta</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.9.6</td>
<td>Abdominal Aortic Branches</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.9.7</td>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.10</td>
<td>Pelvic Fractures</td>
<td>B. Ghaye and R.F. Dondelinger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.10.1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.10.2</td>
<td>Incidence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.10.3</td>
<td>Anatomy and Biomechanics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.10.4</td>
<td>Imaging</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.10.5</td>
<td>Classifications</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.10.6</td>
<td>Pelvic Trauma Management</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.10.7</td>
<td>Complications</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.10.8</td>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SECTION THREE

**Non-Traumatic Neurologic Emergencies: Imaging and Intervention**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>Imaging of Cerebral Ischemia</td>
<td>I. Grunwald, C. Roth, P. Papanagiotou, W. Reith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.2</td>
<td>Intracerebral Hemorrhage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.3</td>
<td>Acute Ischemic Stroke</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.4</td>
<td>Clinical Terms of “Stroke”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.5</td>
<td>Lacunar Infarctions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.6</td>
<td>Stroke in Children</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.7</td>
<td>Dissection</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.8</td>
<td>Hypoxic–Ischemic Encephalopathy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.9</td>
<td>Venous Infarction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>Neuroradiological Emergency Interventions</td>
<td>C. Brekenfeld, J. Gralla, R. Wiest, M. El-Koussy, L. Remonda, C. Ozdoba, G. Schrot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.2</td>
<td>Acute Haemorrhage in Neuroradiology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.3</td>
<td>Acute Ischaemic Stroke</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.4</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SECTION FOUR

**Non-Traumatic Thoracic Emergencies: Imaging and Intervention**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.1.1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1.2</td>
<td>Diagnostic Imaging in Non-cardiac</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1.3</td>
<td>Aortic Diseases</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1.4</td>
<td>Multidector-Row CT and Acute Chest Pain</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>CT Diagnosis of Acute Pulmonary Embolism</td>
<td>B. Ghaye and R.F. Dondelinger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2.1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2.2</td>
<td>History</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2.3</td>
<td>The CTPA Technique</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2.4</td>
<td>Image Interpretation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2.5</td>
<td>Estimation of the Age of the Embolus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SECTION FIVE  
Non-Traumatic Abdominal Emergencies: Imaging and Intervention

5.1 Acute Abdominal Pain: Diagnostic Strategies  
S. Leschka, H. Alkadhi, S. Wildermuth, B. Marinek  
5.1.1 Introduction ........................................ 411  
5.1.2 Clinical Findings .................................. 411  
5.1.3 Imaging ............................................. 413  
5.1.4 Conclusion ......................................... 429  
References .............................................. 431

5.2 Imaging of Acute Intestinal Obstruction  
P. Taourel, C. Uriot, G. Laffargue, A. Lesnik, F. Guillon, J.M. Bruel  
5.2.1 Introduction ....................................... 435  
5.2.2 Diagnosis of Mechanical Obstruction .......... 435  
5.2.3 Diagnosis of Site ................................... 437  
5.2.4 Diagnosis of Cause ................................ 437  
5.2.5 Diagnosis of Complications ...................... 446  
5.2.6 Impact and Diagnostic Strategy ................. 449  
References .............................................. 450

5.3 Imaging and Intervention  
in Gastrointestinal Hemorrhage and Ischemia  
J.I. Bilbao Jaureguizar, I. Vivas Pérez, D. Cano Rafart, A. Martínez de la Cuesta  
5.3.1 Introduction ....................................... 453  
5.3.2 Gastrointestinal Hemorrhage ................. 454  
5.3.3 Intestinal Ischemia .................................. 461  
References .............................................. 467

5.4 Imaging and Intervention in Sepsis  
T. Geoghegan, M.J. Lee  
5.4.1 Introduction ....................................... 471  
5.4.2 Ultrasound .......................................... 471  
5.4.3 Computed Tomography ......................... 472  
5.4.4 Radionuclide Scintigraphy ..................... 472  
5.4.5 Diagnostic Fluid Aspiration .................... 473  
5.4.6 Percutaneous Abscess Drainage ............... 474  
5.4.7 Results of Percutaneous Abscess Drainage ... 476  
5.4.8 Conclusion ......................................... 479  
References .............................................. 479

5.5 Imaging and Intervention  
in Acute Biliary Conditions  
Y. Menu and M.-P. Vuillerme  
5.5.1 Introduction ....................................... 481  
5.5.2 Acute Cholecystitis ................................ 481  
5.5.3 Emphysematous Cholecystitis ................. 485  
5.5.4 Gangrenous Cholecystitis ....................... 485  
5.5.5 Mirizzi Syndrome ................................ 485  
5.5.6 Perforation of the Gallbladder ................. 485  
5.5.7 Cholecystostomy ................................ 487  
5.5.8 Acute Cholangitis ................................ 487  
5.5.9 Conclusion ......................................... 491  
References .............................................. 491

5.6 Imaging and Intervention  
in Acute Pancreatic Conditions  
G. Mansuetto, D. Cenzi, A.A. Gumbs, M. D’Onofrio  
5.6.1 Introduction ....................................... 493  
5.6.2 Pancreatic Infections ............................ 493  
5.6.3 Involvement of Adjacent Organs, Structures  
and Spaces .............................................. 503  
5.6.4 Vascular Involvement ............................ 510  
References .............................................. 519
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