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Spinal Imaging

Diagnostic Imaging of the Spine and Spinal Cord

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Foreword by

A. L. Baert

With 477 Figures in 1218 Separate Illustrations, 36 in Color and 67 Tables

Springer
Foreword

Medical imaging of the spine is among the most frequently performed diagnostic studies due to the high incidence of the very common clinical problem of acute or chronic back pain.

Radiologists have a whole range of diagnostic modalities at their disposal to study spine pathology. It is of the utmost importance that they be familiar with the advantages and disadvantages of these different diagnostic techniques and are able to apply, in each clinical situation, the method that is most likely to optimally solve the clinical problem and indicate its correct management.

Many authors, all well known specialists in their field, have contributed to this book which offers a very complete update of our current insights into and knowledge of common and less common disorders of the spine and the spinal cord.

The illustrations are numerous, highly informative and of impeccable technical quality.

I am very much indebted to the editors, J.W.M. Van Goethem, L. van den Hauwe and P.M. Parizel, for this superb volume which very much enriches the Medical Radiology series. It will be of great interest to radiologists in training, certified radiologists, as well as to neurosurgeons, neurologists and rheumatologists.

Leuven

Albert L. Baert
Diseases of the spine are very common. They affect up to 80% of the population worldwide and may cause pain, disability and economic loss. Pain or discomfort originating in the spine is usually a self-limiting condition. In more than 50% of patients, symptoms usually resolve spontaneously within 4–8 weeks, but there is a very high recurrence rate, estimated at about 85%. Back pain ranks seventh among the top costliest health conditions and is only preceded by heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, stroke-related conditions, osteoarthritis and pneumonia. Spinal imaging is one of the most common radiology procedures in general and is also the most performed MR imaging examination in many countries.

Although the indication for spinal imaging in specific spinal problems, such as trauma, is evident, the role of imaging in the diagnosis of neck and low back pain often remains controversial. Many so-called radiographic abnormalities seen on CT and MRI are commonly also encountered in asymptomatic individuals, a phenomenon carefully explained in this book.

This book aims to provide an overview of diagnostic spinal imaging. It is a comprehensive textbook with many illustrations and tables, yet easy to use with logical chapter-by-chapter coverage of different spinal pathologies. Extensive coverage of common spinal conditions, such as the degenerative diseases, spinal trauma, spinal surgery and imaging of the postoperative spine, spinal tumors, as well as spinal infection and inflammation, make this a very helpful book for everyday use in any practice involved with spinal imaging.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank everybody who made this project possible.

In the Name of Friendship

My thanks go first of all to my co-editors, Paul Parizel and Luc van den Hauwe, without whom this book would not have existed. Luc was the originator, pointing out the fact that a volume on spinal imaging was missing in the Diagnostic Imaging series. Additionally, I have to thank Prof. Albert Baert for believing in our ability and giving us the opportunity to write this book.

I also wish to thank the more than 40 contributors for their tremendous efforts in making this book possible; I know most of them personally and am very grateful to have been able to collaborate on this project with real friends. Finally, I have to thank Paul and Luc for their remarkable efforts in realizing this book together with me – it would not have been possible without them.
In the Name of Love and Family

This book could not have been completed without the continuing support of my wife, Isabelle, who, as a radiologist herself, not only understood my endeavours to complete this work, but who was also my most loyal supporter. As the mother of our three daughters, Alexia, Olivia and Félicia, she is also the cornerstone of our wonderful family and I wish to dedicate this book to these four women in my life.

Edegem

Johan W. M. Van Goethem

This book is dedicated first and foremost to the ones I love: Marleen, my wife, and our children Vincent, Isabel, Liesa and Marie. Our children, they are the future.

My thanks go to Paul and Johan, not only for teaching me neuroradiology, but primarily for their friendship. We have been working together for many years now in the spirit of the three musketeers (Les Trois Mousquetaires, a novel by Alexandre Dumas), inseparable men who chant the motto “One for all, and all for one”.

Edegem

Luc van den Hauwe

I dedicate this book to:

• My wife, Vera, and to my son, Maxim, who mean everything to me
• My neuroradiology teachers in Antwerp, Boston, Brussels and Philadelphia, who programmed my brain with their wisdom and enthusiasm
• My friends and colleagues, Johan Van Goethem and Luc van den Hauwe, from whom I still learn everyday
• The happy coincidence which brought us all together: “in infinito vacuo, ex fortuita atomorum collisione”

Edegem

Paul M. Parizel
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