
Preface

In the modern era of evidence-based medicine, where radiologists are asked to act as integrators for clinical decisions, the strengths and limitations of MR Imaging applications to abdominal diseases need to be properly chartered, adequately explained and understood and thoroughly taken into consideration, when providing the most appropriate method of imaging examination in the field, that would influence clinical management and improve outcomes, including medical costs.

The main intention with this volume is to provide the reader with a comprehensive account and an in depth guide of the actual why, how and when of MR imaging approaches to the most commonly encountered abdominal disease entities. It is hoped that the volume will be used as both, an in-depth working guide to clinical practice and an up-to-day reference source for those engaged in MR imaging evaluation of abdominal diseases.

Initial systematically structured technical chapters are followed by clinically oriented sections, each one of them providing a timely critical update of the existing knowledge of MR applications to abdominal organs. Key points with clinical relevance are elaborated and emphasis is given to advantages and limitations, the pearls and pitfalls, of each one of these richly illustrated applications.

This is in fact a joint European effort to produce a fully encompassing source for radiologists engaged in MR Imaging of the abdomen, with distilled, current and practical information.

I am indebted to all the distinguished colleagues, leading experts in the field, who generously contributed authoritative reviews, thus sharing their invaluable knowledge, insights and expertise. I am also grateful to the publishers, Springer- Verlag, for an excellent result and for superb support and assistance throughout the project.

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