

Preface

In the last 20 years, national and international interest has become increasingly focused on Women's Health. Throughout the world, this important health care discipline has traditionally been underserved and specific conditions undertreated. The National Women Health Network (1975), the Women's Health Initiative of the National Institutes of Health (1991), and the Global Alliance for Women's Health of the United Nations (1994) are a few examples of the many comprehensive efforts to increase education, advocacy, research, and resources for Women's Health issues.

Interventional Radiology, a medical field known for its creativity and innovation in procedural patient care, continues to deliver inventive and resourceful methods for caring for women in all stages of life. In the average Interventional Radiology practice, Women's Health may represent a significant component branch of the practice. Furthermore, the contemporary Interventional Radiologist, assuming more clinical responsibility than his or her predecessors, now has office hours, admissions, and follow-up management protocols that are standard and an integral part of daily patient care operations. As we face a challenging and demanding field with a rapidly expanding body of scientific knowledge, particularly in the area of Women's Health, it is important to provide texts that present a clear, concise, and timely overview of the subject matter.

This book will highlight those Interventional Radiology procedures most pertinent to Women's Health. The authors have labored to cover the sections completely, providing a detailed discussion of pathophysiology, techniques, clinical notes, and a broad review of the literature. Additionally, the authors have distilled information into a concise format so that the actual book has portability.

We hope this book can be a working text, on hand for the Interventional Radiologist in the office or as he or she makes rounds in the hospital. We trust that our readers will find this manual of practical assistance in the work-up, procedural treatment, and management of patients. If this book meets the educational goals of the reader, then the time, energy, and effort expended in its preparation will be justified.

We wish to express our gratitude to our talented and experienced colleagues who contributed to this book. They are a constant source of inspiration and motivation, and we are appreciative of their dedication and concerted efforts.

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