
Preface

This innovative textbook of diagnostic imaging in paediatric gynaecology is, to our knowledge, the first textbook to address this important and rapidly developing field of paediatric practice. Successful delivery of a paediatric gynaecology service requires close multi-disciplinary collaboration between expert paediatric gynaecologists, paediatric surgeons and urologists, endocrinologists and radiologists. This field of expertise is reflected in the authorship of this text.

Interpretation of clinical information and imaging requires a robust understanding of the physiology of the female reproductive tract. It has therefore been our intention to describe the imaging of the female reproductive tract in the context of normal development from fetal life, through infancy, childhood and adolescence to the development of full adult maturity. We hope we have achieved this by committing two chapters to detailed descriptions of normal development: the first describing the embryology of the female reproductive tract and the second describing normal postnatal development, with a detailed description of the endocrinology that regulates these developmental changes. From these descriptions of normal anatomical development and maturation we have moved on to describe congenital, structural abnormalities, including disorders of sexual development and abnormalities in the timing of puberty. Gynaecological neoplasia is addressed in a separate chapter and we include two chapters exploring the assessment of pelvic pain and disorders of menstruation. Finally, disorders of the breast are covered in our closing chapter.

This textbook is intended primarily for paediatric radiologists, however it should be of interest to all those who care for girls with developmental or acquired gynaecological pathology, including radiologists, gynaecologists, urologists, endocrinologists, neonatologists and paediatricians.

We are most grateful to our colleagues for their sharing their expertise in the development of this textbook. We hope it will become a reference and working resource for all those who work in this fascinating field of medicine.

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