
Preface

Vascular diseases represent one of the most frequent causes of death and morbidity in the world. Inflammatory vascular diseases are not the most common but have the peculiarity of a worldwide diffusion, as opposed to vascular diseases provoked by atherosclerosis, which are prevalent in western countries. For some of the diseases a geographical predominance was evident, but for most, changing lifestyles and human relocation has created a widespread dissemination.

In recent years, inflammatory angiopathies have benefited from progress in diagnostic and interventional imaging. Beyond the progress in ultrasound and tomographic imaging, recent years have seen the emerging of functional imaging methods, like positron emission tomography, that can detect early inflammation of the vascular walls, determine the level of inflammatory activity and track their progress under pharmacological treatment. Furthermore, the significant and permanent progress of biology and pathophysiology of the vascular wall allows a better understanding of these diseases and especially their impact on vascular hemodynamics and the various components of the circulating blood.

This work, initiated by Lotfi Hendaoui, is a book primarily centred on the imaging of these various diseases, both in its diagnostic and interventional aspects. Beyond this initial objective, the book also aims to integrate imaging within the overall care of these patients, not forgetting the pathophysiology for understanding how these diverse diseases affect arteries or veins, large vessels or small vessels or capillaries. In addition, these diseases have variable effects on vessel walls, ranging from stenosis to aneurysmal dilatation. The diagnostic criteria for these complex diseases are often difficult to identify and affirm, which requires common rules of identification.

The multiple therapeutic possibilities are also described in detail. All the chapters adopt a similar plan, addressing different aspects of the clinical presentation, imaging and therapeutic management. This presentation allows easy comparison of these different diseases whose main characteristics are summarized in a comparative table at the end of the book. This book was written by a large panel of authors, representing different geographical regions: Africa, Asia, Europe and North America.

For writing this preface, Lotfi Hendaoui chose to associate a representative of Vascular Medicine and a radiologist heavily involved in vascular imaging diagnosis and therapy. This choice is consistent with the dual goal of providing, from imaging, an extensive review of all inflammatory diseases of the vessels and the problems they face in the twenty-first century.

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Systemic Vasculitis

Imaging Features

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