
Preface

Evaluation of patients with scrotal pathologies, either children or adults, is one of the commonest situations in the daily clinical practice. While management of these patients usually requires imaging, correct interpretation of imaging features always needs integration with history and clinical features. Unfortunately, radiologists often have a superficial knowledge of what urologists really need from imaging studies, while clinicians, even those performing ultrasound, themselves often have insufficient knowledge of the diagnostic capabilities offered by the latest generation ultrasound equipment and by other imaging methods.

At the university hospital of Trieste, urologists and radiologists have been working together for several years, performing imaging studies and sharing clinical information. We are highly convinced that before starting any diagnostic imaging procedure, regardless of the urological or radiological background, the patient has to be investigated by means of careful evaluation of the medical history, and a complete orthostatic and clinostatic physical examination. This is easy to be performed due to the great external accessibility to the scrotal content. Also, data of hormonal assessment on the patient, and results of sperm analysis are often useful for the correct interpretation of imaging features. We finally believe that all the different specialists that apply scrotal pathologies must know the current diagnostic possibilities offered by the different imaging modalities, and the advantages provided by the use of newest equipment.

A large amount of high-quality original investigations and review articles are available which cover virtually all arguments in clinics, imaging and management of scrotal disease. To the best of our knowledge, however, no comprehensive books have been recently published on this field. This lack is often felt in the clinical practice and has consequences for the optimum management of the patients: not surprisingly, it was Prof. Emanuele Belgrano, the chairman of our Urological Department, who was first convinced that there was a real demand for a monograph addressing this topic, and first suggested to us to combine our expertise and edit a book considering all aspects of diagnosis and management of scrotal pathologies.

We are pleased to serve as the editors of this book. It is addressed not only to radiologists and urologists primary involved in urogenital imaging, but also to graduate students, and to all clinicians who need a reference book for managing scrotal problems during their everyday clinical work.

As commonly occurs in the clinical practice, in this book the different pathologies are arranged according to their clinical presentation. Since in many cases diseases are essentially different in children and in adults, a separate presentation is provided. We arranged the chapters with this practical approach in mind, and with the aim to provide useful information to specialists with different backgrounds. Each topic is introduced by clinical chapters in which symptoms, useful clinical tests, clinical management, and outcomes are fully described. Thereafter, imaging features are fully described and illustrated.

This volume is an expression of the efforts of distinguished experts throughout the world. The contributing authors bring a wealth of international experience in clinics and imaging of scrotal disease. All have provided excellent contributions, representing their broad experience, and the current clinical applications in their own practices. We are greatly indebted to them for their enthusiastic commitment and support. Without them, this book would not have been possible.

We are grateful to Professor Hedvig Hricak, Professor Maximilian F. Reiser, Medical Radiology series editor, and to Ute Heilmann, PhD, Editorial Director, Clinical Medicine at Springer, for entrusting us to be the editors of this volume. We are also grateful to Ms. Daniela Brandt at Springer for her support in preparing this book.

We hope that this book will be a useful resource to our colleagues primary interested in scrotal pathology, as well as to those who are not experts in this field, but encounter scrotal diseases during their daily medical workup. We hope, in particular, that it will stimulate, motivate, and inspire radiologists and urologists to apply in this field integrating knowledge of imaging modalities and clinical features. We believe that our patients will benefit both from an integrated approach to scrotal problems, and from an optimal use of the different diagnostic tools.

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