
Preface

Diagnostic imaging of abdominal pathologies represents a large amount of the daily workload in radiology facilities worldwide. The impact of Radiology in the management of such patients is clearly evidenced by the fact that most clinical decisions in abdominal disease depend on the outcome of imaging procedures in ambulatory and hospital settings. Computed tomography (CT) has evolved over the past 40 years and become the widely acknowledged key component in the diagnostic work-up of patients with abdominal diseases. The development of multislice CT (MSCT) has been a major contributing factor adding to the breadth and depth of abdominal evaluation possible with imaging. It is therefore natural and timely to develop a book solely dedicated to current techniques and applications of *MSCT in the abdomen*.

While other modalities such as ultrasound or magnetic resonance imaging have proved to be superior in certain specific situations, MSCT remains the most used and relied upon technique as a general abdominal imaging tool, offering robust versatility with detailed anatomic and physiologic information, equally applicable in unstable patients. Due to developments in scanner technology and reconstruction algorithms, the radiation dose is continuing to decrease. All these unique properties make MSCT the backbone of abdominal evaluation for most institutions.

The concept for this book is to provide a broad overview of relevant abdominal pathologies and associated CT findings. In order to keep the length of the book within reasonable limits we focused on frequent and relevant findings to provide a practical educational and clinical tool. Our aim is to help radiologists in daily practice meet their practical clinical needs in determining the examination strategy, optimizing the examination protocol and interpretation of the images rather than being another encyclopaedia of abdominal pathologies.

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