
Preface

Why a book on endocrine diseases in children?

Children cannot be treated like small adults; they don't reach maturity until after puberty.

This means that the optimal function of the different glands influencing their growth and development is of utmost importance. Many glands can be involved in abnormal growth and development; furthermore, any gland can influence directly or indirectly the function of another, uphill or downhill.

Imaging plays a central role in demonstrating the normal and abnormal function of the endocrine glands. Imaging can demonstrate abnormalities at the level of the gland itself or indirect changes at distance of the gland (e.g. bone changes due to parathyroid dysfunction).

Depending upon the gland involved and the age of the patient, the use of imaging technique may vary. Ultrasound would be preferred in the fetus; MR imaging is effective for the hypothalamo-hypophyseal axis, CT and MR imaging for identifying adrenal changes in older children.

This book encompasses different chapters covering the entire spectrum of endocrine diseases starting in the fetus and ending with puberty. Diseases of the hypophysis, thyroid, parathyroid, adrenals and pancreas are widely discussed and illustrated. Ambiguous genitalia (disorders of sexual development) and precocious puberty are also developed. A chapter on bone normal and abnormal growth (due to the effects of endocrine diseases) helps to understand the importance of endocrine diseases. We have also included the opinion of a pediatric endocrinologist on imaging.

This book aims to underline both the need to consider the sick child in its globality and to understand the interaction between all its organs, even the smallest ones: endocrine glands.

In this way, I would like to thank all the contributors for their excellent work.

Fred Avni

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