
Preface

Inflammatory diseases of the central nervous system (CNS) play an increasingly important role in the clinical practice of neuroradiology: Infections of the CNS frequently involve immunocompromised patients and come more and more along with the employment of innovative and aggressive immunosuppressive and immunomodulatory therapies. Noninfectious inflammations such as multiple sclerosis account for about 10 % of all neurological diseases.

In the second edition of this textbook special attendance was again credited to advanced MR techniques such as diffusion-weighted imaging, perfusion imaging, susceptibility weighted imaging as well as MR spectroscopy. These techniques provide important information for the differentiation between inflammatory brain diseases and other entities, such as neoplastic, metabolic, or ischemic diseases which have to be considered in the differential diagnosis.

Chapters with special topics are dealing with brain inflammation in childhood, with granulomatous diseases, and with MR imaging and spectroscopic specifics in the context of recommendations for imaging protocols.

The uniform structure of the particular chapters should help the reader to find one's way in the complexity of the diseases and to understand the coherence of clinical, epidemiological, pathological, and radiological specifics of brain inflammation.

We are aware that there are some repetitions between the chapters and themes: They should support learning and memorizing certain topics from different points of view.

Special importance was attached to furnish the book with many instructive figures—a neuroradiological book is living from abundant picturing. For those who are in hurry, therefore it might be worth to flick through the book while only looking at the images. In this second edition several images have been supplemented.

We hope that also the second edition will be of value not only for neuroradiologists but also for neurologists, pediatricians, and general radiologists. The co-authors and I would be thankful for constructive criticism from the reader: Please let us know if something can be improved in the next edition.

A lot of people contributed substantially to this book beside the actively involved authorship. First, I would like to thank my former chief Klaus Sartor (Heidelberg/Hepenheim), who had woken my interest for diagnostic neuroradiology as academic teacher more than 20 years ago, and who had inspired me to publish this book. Michael Knauth (Göttingen) accompanied me not only during publishing this book but also during my professional career, and as friend and companion. Further, I thank my current chief, Martin Bendszus, for giving me ample space to be myself for creating and editing this book. Last but not least, I thank Corinna Schäfer and Martina Wiese from Springer-Verlag who patiently assisted me during editing the manuscript book and advised me excellently regarding the structure of this book.

Heidelberg, November 2012

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Inflammatory Diseases of the Brain

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2013, XII, 182 p., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-642-30519-1