
Preface

This book on echocardiography concerns the mitral valve in its normal and diseased guises. It is not intended only for echocardiography specialists alone, but it is supposed to be a reference work for clinical cardiologists too. Space will therefore be set aside for the etiology and pathophysiology of mitral valve disease.

I have sought to make the book fluid and discursive, as well as rigorous and accurate (i.e. full of bibliographical references), as is expected of a book that claims to be entirely scientific and educational. I do not know if I have achieved my aims.

Many images have been obtained using three-dimensional echocardiography. In a few years three-dimensional echocardiography will become the most common technique in echocardiography laboratories and I am bold enough (and vain enough) to think that when this occurs the book will still be up-to-date.

I am indebted to all the co-authors of the chapters: Tiziano Moccetti, Giovanni Pedrazzini, Elena Pasotti, Gaetano Nucifora, my colleagues at the Ticino Heart Center who shared in my efforts and with whose work I have been able to find the time to write. Thanks are also due to Prof. Siew Yen Ho, who works at the Royal Brompton Hospital in London, and Prof. Natesa Pandian of the Tufts University in Boston. Obviously they did not help me to write the original book in Italian, but it was with their help over many years that I was able to achieve this. This is why I have cited them as co-authors in the chapters in which their cultural contribution was greatest. For the same reason I must not forget Prof. Angelo Auricchio, with whom I have shared a wonderful scientific and cultural journey over the years; although he was not directly involved in this project, working beside him has made me scientifically more rigorous and “structured”.

Kind thanks are also due to Dr. Giovanna Branzi and Dr. Francesca De Chiara. The former, who was my student many years ago, continues to call herself this, even though in reality she is a professor of echocardiography in her own right. The latter, also a former student of mine,

has become an excellent echocardiography specialist and clinical cardiologist. Both have read and re-read my chapters, correcting mistakes and changing the sometimes incomprehensible sentences I had written. Dr. De Chiara is also, owing to her specific knowledge, co-author of two chapters.

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