Preface

Over the past 20 years, diagnostic tests for pediatric pulmonologists have revolutionized care of children afflicted with respiratory disorders. These tests have been used to help not only in diagnosis but also in the management and treatment of these children. Bronchoscopic, imaging, and physiologic advances have improved clinical care and have also been used as outcome measures in research trials.

The aims of this book are to (1) describe the various diagnostic modalities (especially the newer ones) that are available for the evaluation of pediatric respiratory disorders; (2) understand the advantages and limitations of each test so that the clinician may choose the most appropriate modality; and (3) describe how best to interpret the key findings in a variety of tests as well as the possible pitfalls in interpretation.

The book focuses on the main diagnostic modalities used in the evaluation of pediatric patients with respiratory disorders and presents up-to-date information on a number of tests that are used for a variety of conditions encountered in the practice of pediatric pulmonology. The clinical applications of the tests are highlighted within each chapter.

The book contains 14 chapters written by 30 authors; the authors are both young pediatric pulmonologists who are emerging as leaders in our field as well as well-known international experts.

Target readers are practicing clinicians including pediatric pulmonologists, intensivists, pediatricians, and primary care practitioners. Other readers may include trainees, respiratory therapists, nurses, radiologists, and clinical researchers.

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