The BEST Points of the Atlas

This preface is inspired by the Italian author Beppe Severgnini's book *Life is a Journey*. In choosing BEST, we did not wish to give ourselves a pat on the back; in fact, it is the acronym for this atlas's four guiding concepts:

- Brevity
- Encouragement
- Simplicity
- Teaching

📖 Beppe Severgnini is a columnist for *Corriere della Sera* (one of Italy's leading daily newspapers) and a contributing opinion writer for *The New York Times*. He is the author of 16 books and teaches at the University of Milan's School of Journalism. *Severgnini was awarded the O.B.E. and is a Commendatore della Repubblica Italiana.*

Brevity

Briefness and *precision* are essential qualities in these busy times, and the importance of having quick guides is crucial. This atlas is designed as an easy-to-use reference guide that identifies and illustrates the key patterns of diffuse lung diseases observed on high-resolution computed tomography (HRCT). This atlas documents in great detail each pattern's signs with close Rad-Path correlations. This book also allows a rapid view of HRCT characteristics and appearances of the individual diseases grouped on the basis of their prevalent radiological pattern.

📖 *Brevity is the soul of wit*. From the second act of *Hamlet*, this is one of the countless expressions coined by William Shakespeare that has entered into common usage. With appropriate conciseness, it extols the virtue of expressing ideas in as few words as possible.

Encouragement

We all need a little encouragement! One should not to be concerned or put off by the wide number of DLDs that exist; in this atlas the task is made much easier by the inclusion of many diagnostic tools as well as a variety of tips and tricks (examples of which can be found in the Case-Based Glossary).

We would also *nudge* you to deal with DLDs using a multidisciplinary approach. Multidisciplinary diagnosis is considered the gold standard: it can improve the accuracy of diagnosis, avoid unnecessary tests (e.g. lung biopsies), and optimize patient management.

📖 *Nudge*: *Improving Decisions about Health*, *Wealth*, *and Happiness*. Richard H. Thaler Cass R. Sunstein, 2008 Yale University Press.

Simplicity

Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication (Steve Jobs). Jobs saw simplicity as the means for conquering complex realities. He later added: *It takes a lot of hard work to make something simple, to truly understand the underlying challenges and come up with elegant solutions.*

In this atlas, we have removed anything that was not essential and used a simple and visually pleasing layout.

Teaching

We have employed an innovative format that we believe is effective for achieving optimal learning and memorization. In a way similar to color-code maps (geographic, political, railway, etc.), different colors are used so as to assist in the quick memorization of the six different patterns.

The six pattern colors are:

- **Purple (septal pattern)**
- **Pink (fibrosing pattern)**
- **Green (nodular pattern)**
- **Sky blue (alveolar pattern)**
- **Red (cystic pattern)**
- **Dark grey (dark lung pattern)**

In addition to the description of each pattern's signs and a selected choice of signs in the Case-Based Glossary, we also provide some images that are easy to remember and recognize; some of these resemble everyday things (e.g., butterfly sign, cheerio sign, etc.).

Symbols

Symbols are used to allow quick identification of important concepts

Synonyms commonly used in clinical practice

Tips and tricks

Caveat! Be careful! Remember!

Expansion of a concept just outlined

Bibliographic reference related to the topic in the specific context

Differential diagnosis

About the Atlas

This new atlas is a *companion volume* to the book entitled *Diffuse Lung Diseases*: *Clinical Features*, *Pathology*, *HRCT*, Mario Maffessanti & Giorgia Dalpiaz (Eds), Springer 2006. Both volumes share the same layout, use of graphics, and multidisciplinary approach to DLDs, but this atlas contains a greater number of Rad-Path figures.

About the Editors

Giorgia Dalpiaz (radiologist) and Alessandra Cancellieri (pathologist) are close friends and a longstanding Rad-Path team. This atlas is the result of decades of professional collaboration in daily practice as well as for the preparation of joint lectures and talks.

Target Readership

This atlas is intended for a wide range of healthcare professionals, in particular *radiologists*, *pulmonologists*, and *pathologists*. A further feature of this book is its interdisciplinary content.

Dedication

Both of us affectionately dedicate this atlas to Prof. Mario Maffessanti, a very special and brilliant person.

We also wish to thank our families for their loving support.

Bologna, Italy — Giorgia Dalpiaz
Bologna, Italy — Alessandra Cancellieri





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