
Preface

The first edition of *Practical Urological Ultrasound* was an outgrowth of a campaign to teach practicing urologists the basic techniques for performing and documenting ultrasound examinations on urologic patients. An emphasis on an organ-based approach was intended to mimic what was encountered in daily practice and to extend the principles learned to intraoperative applications.

The more pervasive use of MRI in conjunction with radionuclide studies and, more recently, for MRI-guided prostate biopsy would seem to render a fundamental understanding of ultrasound less vital. To the contrary, the skillful use of ultrasound is critical to the co-registration of images for MRI-TRUS fusion biopsy of the prostate, for identification of lesions for focal therapy of the prostate, and for intraoperative guidance during complex renal surgery.

In fact, multi-parametric ultrasound (gray scale, Doppler, contrast-enhanced, and elastography) may function as well as MRI-based procedures in a variety of clinical situations at a fraction of the cost. In the short time since our first edition, improvements in transducers and overall image quality have made ultrasound a fundamental part of daily urologic practice and have the potential to replace axial imaging for some applications and procedures.

Central to urologist-performed imaging and imaging-based procedures is a thorough understanding of the physics underlying ultrasound imaging. We hope this edition will continue to enlighten urologists and encourage them to personally perform these procedures on behalf of their patients.

Dallas, TX, USA

Pat F. Fulgham

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Fulgham, P.F.; Gilbert, B.R. (Eds.)

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