valuable first line investigation in the diagnosis of many abdominal pathologies, especially those involving the hepatobiliary system, the pancreas, and the kidneys. This book provides a contemporary comprehensive reference for both the ‘imager’ and the user.

There are 11 chapters covering the liver, the biliary system, the pancreas, the renal tract, the retroperitoneum, vascular ultrasound, the peritoneal cavity and abdominal wall, the spleen, the gastrointestinal tract, interventional ultrasound and finally the less well established use of intraoperative ultrasound.

The book is well written with a useful start to each chapter discussing ultrasound techniques and normal anatomy before detailing abnormal appearances.

The text is clearly illustrated with some nice anatomical diagrams. The ultrasound images are almost without exception of high quality with helpful accompanying legends, although it would be nice to see the end of the few static and black on white images. Rare as well as commonplace conditions are included and the pitfalls awaiting the unwary sonographer are emphasised as well as the limitations of the technique. Complementary imaging modalities are also discussed where appropriate.

It is a little disappointing that more was not made of the use of Doppler ultrasound in the abdomen and also the use of endosonography in the investigation of disorders of the upper gastrointestinal tract and biliary system, the pelvic organs and the rectum. A minor criticism, however.

The author prefaced his text with the wish to convert the ‘non-believers’ in ultrasound to ‘believers’ by giving them greater understanding of the images and information obtained. In this aim, I am sure he must succeed. This is an excellent book and I hope that it will be found in the library of every imaging department providing an abdominal ultrasound service, as well as being available for reference to the ‘users’, both those who believe and more importantly perhaps those who don’t.

K M WALMSLEY

**News**

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