

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 prefaces 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.

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**Clinics in gastroenterology: diarrhoea** Edited by G J Krejs. (Pp. 268; illustrated; £15.) London: W B Saunders, 1986.

This volume of *Clinics in gastroenterology* contains 13 chapters written by an international team of experts. Two chapters deal with the basic definition of secretory diarrhoea (Fordtran and colleagues), and an introduction to the mechanisms of normal and abnormal intestinal fluid and electrolyte transport (Bridges and Rummel). The problem of cholera is covered superbly by Rabbani, and Moriarty and Turnberg deal with the role of bacterial toxins in the

other infective diarrhoeas. Chapters on the role of eicosanoids in diarrhoeal diseases (Rask-Madsen), and the problem of bile acid induced diarrhoea (Fromm and Malavolti) make these two complicated topics deceptively simple. Chapters on congenital chloride diarrhoea (Holmberg) and the endocrine related diarrhoeas (Rambaud and colleagues) provide interesting insights into some relative rarities. Diarrhoea caused by carbohydrate malabsorption is comprehensively covered by Caspary. In *Diarrhée Motrice*, Read makes intestinal motility a manageable subject for the non-specialist, and emphasises the interaction between abnormal motor function and abnormal mucosal transport in the pathogenesis of diarrhoea. There are useful chapters on faecal incontinence (Schiller), ileostomy diarrhoea (Metcalf and Phillips) and factitious diarrhoea (Ewe and Karbach). Whether you are struggling to unravel the alleged mechanisms of diarrhoea, or juggling with potions to help the unfortunate patient, you (and possibly the patient) will gain by reading this excellent book.

G I SANDLE

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## News

### Reduced subscription for trainees

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