



Book Review

Pediatric Ultrasound: A Practical Guide

By Allison Holley

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The author of this book describes it as a handbook which provides a concise review of ultrasound examination technique for the paediatric patient, and it largely fulfils this brief. An introductory chapter gives a good general overview of tips and advice for dealing with the paediatric patient and their parents which covers areas such as preparation, the examination environment and dealing with anxiety.

The book is well set out with the information given in point form under appropriate headings and each type of ultrasound examination is given its own chapter. Each of these chapters contains advice on equipment use, organs to be imaged and scanning technique. These are followed by a series of ultrasound images, each having a corresponding line drawing which labels the anatomy and thus provides a useful aid to those starting out in paediatric ultrasound. A particularly nice feature of this book is the inclusion in each chapter of a literature review and references enabling the reader easier access to further information.

The focus of this guide is mainly on ultrasound technique and normal paediatric appearances and it does not claim to give a comprehensive guide to paediatric ultrasound pathology. However, in trying to guide the ultrasound practitioner in the appropriate technique to aid the identification of pathology, there is bound to be overlap into pathologies and this aspect of the book is less successful and quite limited. There is some inconsistency in the approach to the coverage of pathology with several chapters such as those on abdominal and renal ultrasound only containing normal ultrasound appearances whilst others such as the neck contain several pathologies.

Ultrasound has been taken as an isolated technique without reference to its limitations or the value of recommending other modalities. An example of this is in the technique described for the examination of abdominal or renal trauma, which despite the use of high-frequency linear array transducers and Doppler is known to miss abdominal organ trauma, and Computerised Tomography is regarded by some as the examination of choice.

In the preface, it is said that the book aims to provide the experienced sonographer in a non-paediatric department with a reference to information not often used, and it has successfully delivered that. It would also provide a useful introductory guide for a student or ultrasound practitioner starting out in paediatric ultrasound practice.

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