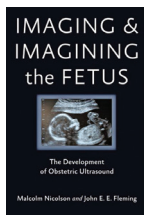


Book reviews



Imaging and Imagining the Fetus

Malcolm Nicolson and John EE Fleming

336 pp

Publisher: The Johns Hopkins University Press

ISBN-13: 978-1421407937

Price: \$50

This 267-page book not only covers historical aspects but also the step by step development of ultrasound and its role in helping to formulate clinical management of obstetrics and gynaecology patients.

The story of Professor Ian Donald's team in Glasgow – their successes and failures in trying to establish ultrasound as a diagnostic tool, makes for fascinating reading. The book highlights the importance of the developments in engineering towards the constant improvement of the early ultrasound machines, in particular the genius of Tom Brown, still with us, who made possible the development of the sophisticated machinery we now use in our daily clinical work.

For junior medical doctors, the narrative also highlights the hierarchy involved in medicine during that era – from the 1950s to the 1970s. It illustrates how innovation in the medical field was viewed then and the difficulties the early pioneers had in convincing their peers of the value of their work.

Imagine having to keep a lady, presenting with ante partum haemorrhage, in hospital for the major part of her pregnancy – until 38 weeks gestation, so that an examination under anaesthesia could be performed to rule out placenta praevia, all because ultrasound was not then available!!

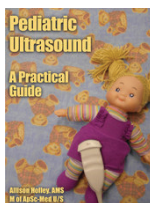
From an ASUM perspective it is heartening to read about the major advances towards gray-scaling which was achieved by George Kossoff and his colleagues at the Ultrasonic Institute in Sydney. Their research published in 1973 was acclaimed as an outstanding breakthrough and Donald himself expressed his appreciation of the Australian images by saying "I fairly drooled over some of your pictures".

After reading this account one can appreciate how far we have come and how much we owe to those early innovators.

We may ponder too on how our thinking of the contents of the gravid uterus has changed and how parental links to the unborn are made in ways unimaginable before the development of ultrasound.

Prof Ron Benzie

Dr Joyce Woo



Pediatric Ultrasound – A Practical Guide

Allison Holley

182 pp

ISBN: 970987526007

Price: A\$39.99

Allison Holley is a paediatric sonographer with many years experience at the tertiary level. The text of this eBook has been drawn from that experience and an extensive literature review. This eBook, available from the Apple iBook store is

essentially the second edition of a work, which was previously only available as a hardcopy. The current edition is also available in hardcopy.

The aim of the eBook is to act as a source of information for the solo and rural sonographer and the student. The important point is made that this edition is not an ultrasound pathology book in much the same way as a radiographic positioning text is not a text book of radiological pathology.

As the eBook is available for sale to an international audience, American spelling has been used.

Each chapter addresses an area (often peculiar to paediatric sonography), which is in turn divided into subsections. The subsections provide information on technique, sonographic images and accompanying line drawings and a short literature review. It is no accident that the first chapter addresses the management of the paediatric patient and parents. Anyone exposed to the paediatric patient would do well to adopt some of what is offered in this excellent chapter. The remaining chapters cover specific body areas with the accompanying subsections. Sonographic technique is presented in dot point form and makes very useful reading. Importantly, these sections also provide suggested patient preparations. The technique section of each chapter can act as a starting point for further technique development for anyone practicing in a general setting. The sonographic images are of a high quality and the accompanying labelled line diagrams are easily understood.

With regard to technique, what is offered is from the perspective of one person and as such should not be taken as exclusive. Different paediatric departments may vary their approach from what is described.

The literature reviews within each chapter are concise and provide an opportunity to not only gain further knowledge and understanding of the subject material, but also act as a launching point for further reading. Many of the reviews provide measurement data relevant to the paediatric population.

The emphasis of the subject material though generally very good, at times leans toward the tertiary situation rather than the general experience. Extensive referencing provides many opportunities for further learning, but at times uses very old reference material. Although it could be argued that some of these references may have been seminal articles, this is not always the case.

Pediatric Ultrasound: A Practical Guide would make a valuable addition to the library of any sonographer or student whether they work in a general, rural or solo situation. The reasonably priced eBook introduces useful approaches to managing the paediatric patient. The remaining subject material is presented in a concise and logical manner accompanied by high quality images and extensive referencing. Minor proofing and editing shortfalls detract slightly from what is a very good presentation of the subject material. This could be easily addressed in any further editions.

Jeffrey Siegmann
FIR, DMU, AMS