

BOOK REVIEW

Paediatric Ultrasound: A Practical Guide

Holley A, 2013, E-book ISBN: 978-0-9875-2600-7

This is an unusual text for a number of reasons.

First, it is an eBook, made for viewing on an iPad, in a landscape profile. Pages are turned with finger sweeps, images are expanded and collapsed with finger squeezes, and indexes are opened and closed with taps. It will feel familiar and comfortable to those who regularly use an eReader (which is most of us these days) but may take some getting used to for the uninitiated. It is a really good format for a book like this and guarantees high fidelity images, which can be manipulated, and ease of navigation.

Second, it is a book written expressly for the purpose of teaching the technique of paediatric scanning. In her preface, Allison Holley makes the point that paediatric scanning is a growth area and moving towards subspecialty status. In describing her book, she says 'this eBook is the sec-

ond edition of a handbook that was written by a Sonographer, for Sonographers, using a quick, easy access, reference format. It gives a concise review of ultrasound examination technique for Paediatric patients, and it is hoped to be of value to sonographers of all levels of experience.' It is not a book for those interested only in the most basic of ultrasound skills (FAST scanning/AAA/line placement etc.). Chapters include guides on scanning neonatal craniums, chest, neck, hip and spine, as well as more common fare (scrotum, pylorus etc). The author makes excellent use of simple line drawings next to ultrasound images to clarify what is being imaged. The line drawings pull out meaning from the fog of the ultrasound images.

Third, there is minimal information on pathology. This is not a text in which you will find classic, diagnostic images of common clinical illness. It is a book about the technique of scanning, and the methods used to acquire good images. The only images are of normal tissue.

The aim of the book is to provide a guide to technique, and it achieves its

goal admirably. It is one of the best of its type that I have read, and I will be recommending it to those who are pursuing expertise in paediatric scanning (and even for those who already have). The chapters are well written, easy to follow, and the images included (both ultrasound images and line drawings) have been chosen to illustrate and clarify the text. It covers scanning technique for all the standard scans, and each chapter finishes with a brief review of the evidence base for the studies described, and controversies. It is current, and sensible.

It is not a book for everyone. Very few Emergency Physicians (apart from those who are doing ultrasound as a sub-specialist, or those working exclusively in paediatric practice) will find the book relevant. It is a serious text for those interested in taking their scanning to a higher level.

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