

Book reviews

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Atlas of dynamic cholescintigraphy/Atlas dynamické cholescintigrafie

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Liver scintigraphy was introduced at the end of 50s while liver dynamic cholescintigraphy using ^{99m}Tc -HIDA derivatives was introduced in 1976. Whereas the former is slowly passing into the history of nuclear medicine, the latter is still in wide use, which is confirmed by *The Atlas of Dynamic Scintigraphy* written by Dr. Jiří Prášek and published by Lacomed Ltd. This atlas is based upon an impressive number of 4,000 tests performed by the author between the years 1991–2003. The excellent quality of the presented scintigrams leave no doubt that the author is of excellent competence in the field. This atlas illustrates the patterns of cholescintigraphy in normal subjects, duodenogastric reflux, dysfunction of the biliary tract, liver metastases, neonatal hepatitis, neonatal jaundice, atypical localisation of gallbladder, sclerosing cholangitis, inversed viscera, also examples of normal and abnormal gallbladder ejection fraction. Static images are supplemented with very good

quality dynamic curve images. The printing is of excellent quality and very good paper has been used. Undoubtedly this book should be on a book-shelf of every nuclear medicine department.

What would be missing for the average readership is the lack of images showing chronic acalculous cholecystitis and insufficient illustration of the role of dynamic scintigraphy in neonatal biliary atresia, which are one of the most important problems in radionuclide dynamic liver imaging. Also this book would benefit from a deeper theoretical background, which in fact is limited to seven pages. Comparisons and/or discussion with other modern biliary tract imaging techniques (e.g. MRI imaging) would have also improved this very interesting publication. The list of references could have also been more extensive than 21.

Despite those minor critical remarks, tribute should be paid to the author. This book is of a very high practical value and is invaluable for the nuclear medicine practitioner. A special tribute should also be paid to Lacomed Ltd., which in recent years has published a series of atlases devoted to gallium scintigraphy, samarium therapy, renal scintigraphy, nuclear cardiology and PET imaging. This is a very important contribution of this radiopharmaceutical company to the continuing medical education of the nuclear medicine community.

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A reply:

Dear Editor,

thank you very much for a review of my book.

About your critical comments:

1. Acalculous cholecystitis I think, that the results of dynamic cholescintigraphy do not affect the treatment and dynamic cholescintigraphy is not indicated in that case. Similar situation is in acute cholecystitis I have never seen in last 15 years a patient with this diagnosis on our department, although in all textbooks of nuclear medicine it is usually mentioned.
2. Neonatal biliary atresia sorry for my mistake, I have not clearly written this part. All referred patients, which I mentioned had a neonatal jaundice and question was: is it hepatitis or biliary atresia? In our group of 4000 patients, 25 patients (0.6%) had

this problem (0.6%); the role of dynamic cholescintigraphy was very high.

3. Comparison or discussion with other imaging techniques. I have only limited experience with this field. But I think, the aim of this book is in functional, not morphological imaging. Ultrasound imaging is always very beneficial in cases of biliary tract obstruction.

In conclusion thanks again for very good review. It is very difficult to write all interesting things in limited number of pages.

Yours sincerely

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Nuclear Medicine in Psychiatry

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This volume, consisting of 33 chapters and comprising 561 pages, combines the expertise of 40 authors in technical and clinical sections. The technical section includes the chapters on nuclear medicine instrumentation, perfusion tracers, radioligands for neuroreceptor imaging studies and molecular imaging. The book provides an excellent overview of radionuclide imaging in traditional issues dementia, schizophrenia, bipolar affective disorders, child psychiatry, personality disorders, mood disorders, obsessive-compulsive disorder, eating disorders, post-traumatic stress dis-

orders, but also an interesting issues like behavioural disorders in Parkinson's disease, late whiplash syndrome, fibromyalgia, suicidal behaviour, apathy, hysteria and catatonia. Particularly intriguing are the chapters on hypnosis and the use of functional brain imaging in the court. The Editors have intentionally skipped an issue on neuroimaging in drug and alcohol abuse on a ground that this topic was considered too extensive to be covered in a single chapter. That a pity, as alcohol, stimulant and opiate misuse is a growing medical and social problem, with increasing role of functional neuroimaging in those patients.

The text is very well suited to the needs of neuroimaging experts as well as the neurologists and psychiatrists interested in neuroimaging. The quality of production is high, with many colour figures, an essential fact in the field of functional neuroimaging. It is a must for all colleagues who are involved in radionuclide neuroimaging.