

Book Reviews

Ultrasound of the Musculoskeletal System

Stefano Bianchi and Carlo Martinoli
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Hardcover, \$349.00; pp 959; 1111
figures.

This book is part of a series entitled *Medical Radiology: Diagnostic Imaging and Radiation Oncology*. All of this volume's authors are Italian; however, the book is written flawlessly in English and reads effortlessly, without even a trace of an accent! It should not be surprising that the best book on this topic has come from Europe, since the use of ultrasonography (US) in the musculoskeletal system is limited in the United States but is common in Europe and Australia.

While many radiology textbooks attempt to be comprehensive in their treatment of a topic, few truly succeed. *Ultrasound of the Musculoskeletal System* succeeds at every level. It is one of the few comprehensive and authoritative volumes I have read on any topic and is by far the best textbook available on this topic. This book will serve as a terrific reading-room reference, but its best application would be by novices (which would include almost every musculoskeletal radiologist in the United States, not to mention radiology residents and fellows) to learn how to apply the cross-sectional modality of US to the musculoskeletal system. Best of all, it is fascinating, readable, and extremely well illustrated—not a dry tome, but one of those rare textbooks that is truly a joy to read.

The book is organized into five sections (ie, instrumentation, general applications, individual anatomic sites, interventional procedures, and pediatric applications), with 19 total chapters. Each chapter is packed with pearls and is presented with clarity. The extremely lucid writing is accompanied by an amazing collection of accompanying fig-

ures: line drawings, surgical specimens, intraoperative and arthroscopic photographs, bone scans, radiographs, and cross-sectional images (mostly US images, but also computed tomographic and magnetic resonance images and even the occasional telethermographic image). The chapter on the shoulder, for example, is 141 pages long and is the single best treatment of the topic that I have ever seen in any format. This chapter could have been a stand-alone textbook in and of itself and, in my opinion, would have been the best textbook on the topic. The same level of clarity, quality, readability, and comprehensiveness carries through every topic in every chapter.

The book is extremely well indexed. It has the potential to be both an invaluable tutorial and a constantly used resource for subspecialist musculoskeletal radiologists. I think it will also appeal to any radiologist, pathologist, or surgeon who is seeking to quickly, comprehensively, and efficiently broaden and deepen their knowledge in this specialized area. The high price of this large book may be a deterrent to trainees, but the price is justified by the educational value, the quality of the written material, the glossy pages, and the innumerable high-quality illustrations. One could easily spend thousands of dollars attending Continuing Medical Education conferences on musculoskeletal US and not learn as much as one would with a single read-through of this book. *Bellissimo!*

Reviewed by Michael A. Bruno, MD