Michael Riccabona

Pediatric Ultrasound

Requisites and Applications

With contributions by Brian Coley Andreas Gamillscheg Bernd Heinzl Gerolf Schweintzger



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Preface

Ultrasound (US) has become the mainstay of paediatric radiology, particularly as neonates, infants and children offer ideal scanning conditions. Furthermore, with growing concern about radiation risks imposed to children for medical imaging, it has become even more important to exploit all options US may offer. Numerous papers have been written on this topic focusing on the child's increased radiation sensitivity. Many campaigns have been initiated to promote radiation protection awareness throughout the world, such as the Image Gently campaign in the United States. However, children will continue to need medical imaging, and when trying to avoid irradiating methods such as CT and fluoroscopy, alternative non-invasive imaging must be available. Ultrasound is a relatively inexpensive, non-invasive and non-radiating imaging modality that promises to comply with all this requirements and must be promoted as the major initial modality. As a consequence of this paradigm, high standard paediatric US must become available to all children in need throughout the world, 24 h a day, 7 days a week, throughout the year.

When trying to support and educate people to properly perform high level paediatric US I was often asked by participants of various courses and lectures, if I know a reasonably priced comprehensive booklet that covers all main aspects of paediatric US. It shouldn't be too big, and should address not only all relevant aspects and diseases but also modern methods and must offer image examples. This request came particularly from colleagues from less wealthy countries such as the Third World and Asia, but also from sonographers and technicians, students, young colleagues and residents in training, as well as paediatricians, paediatric surgeons, and radiologists who are not full time paediatric radiologists.

So I set out to try and create such booklet. In order to achieve these goals the text had to be short - thus this book is written in a checklist like style. The text is less extensive, and the legends are compact. Some less important conditions and aspects are only briefly mentioned or omitted, and image examples are focused on either very common important entities or on rare but still essential conditions that should not be overlooked or mistaken (i.e., relevant for differential diagnosis). Particular emphasis has been given to new approaches that widen US potential such as perineal US, contrast-enhanced US or filling techniques, using modern equipment and routinely encompassing Doppler sonography. However, basic features and rules also remain valid and important, particularly as they need to be respected and be addressed with any standard equipment; the description of those should enable the

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reader to make an US diagnosis provided careful and proper selection of adequate transducers and correct device settings is available. Further and more detailed information must, however, be retrieved from respective established textbooks.

This project could only be realized by the help and support of Springer company, my colleagues at work, the input (and images) from my co-authors, and the patience of my partner Barbara. And the enterprise was further spurred by the motivation and inspiration I got from all the children and parents I encountered during daily work, their needs and suffering, but also their gratitude or their rewarding smile. I can only hope that you will find this booklet helpful for your daily needs and that it will achieve its goal, to contribute and improve access to dedicated paediatric US for all children in need, inspiring sonographers and physicians to outmost exploit US potential, to use creative approaches and apply US whenever there is an option that this might offer a diagnostic or therapeutic solution to the child's condition. Even if US is financially not as rewarding as other imaging methods, it will hopefully be rewarding in terms of diagnostic success at reduced invasiveness and without radiation burden - an aspect I particularly learned to pursue and value from my four children to whom I want to dedicate this work.

Graz, Austria January 2013 Prof. Michael Riccabona

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