

Radiology of Chest Diseases 3rd edition. Sebastian Lange MD, Geraldine Walsh MRCP FRCR FRANZCR. New York: Thieme Medical Publishers. 2007. Hard cover, illustrated, 372 pages, \$139.95.

The most common imaging study performed is the chest radiograph. Given its ubiquity, it is imperative that clinicians and radiologists alike understand the basics of radiograph interpretation. **Radiology of Chest Diseases** is an invaluable resource in basic chest radiograph and computed tomogram (CT) interpretation for the everyday pulmonary practitioner and general radiologist and radiologist in training. This text is an excellent introduction to the fascinating field of chest radiology or a great resource for a quick review. The writing style is concise and clear, without needless discussion. Separated into 14 chapters, the organization is logical, which aids in overall comprehension and recall.

The first chapter describes the chest radiograph/CT technique and the normal examination. Brief discussions of nuclear medicine, pulmonary arteriography, bronchography, and magnetic resonance imaging are included toward the end of Chapter 1. The chapter does an excellent job of conveying the key points of the basic anatomy and common normal variants. The figures in this section are a good blend of hand-drawn and computer-generated images, as well as actual radiographs. Especially effective is the figure of the normal lateral and posteroanterior chest radiograph with an overlay of normal structures. Text is kept to a minimum in this section—and rightly so. The liberal use of images rather than text provides the highest yield with the least invested time and effort—an attribute well appreciated by any health professional. Also impressive is the normal axial CT anatomy section, which has color coding to delineate segmental anatomy. Even the somewhat complicated figure of pulmonary vascular anatomy is helpful, as it implies how complex is chest vasculature. However, I think the anatomy could be more clearly illustrated by eliminating the overlap of arterial and venous structures and instead showing each separately.

Chapters 2 through 11, which discuss numerous chest diseases, both common and rare, make up the majority of the text. More emphasis is put on the common diseases (eg, congestive heart failure and pneumonia), while less emphasis is placed on rarer conditions. Where appropriate, chapter subcategories offer logical organization. For example, in the first chapter, the pulmonary vascular malformations are treated together, which will aid in recall. The radiologic images and hand-drawn figures, which are probably taken from earlier editions, when this may have been more common, are invaluable for comprehension. Though some readers may be put off by the less-than-high-tech hand-drawn figures, they clearly delineate the authors' points without the unnecessary clutter found in many of today's books. In fact, perhaps the authors should be lauded for not being swayed into reproducing their images with present-day printing techniques. Diseases are treated in a straightforward and predictable format, first describing the pathology of the disease, followed by a concise discussion of clinical findings, and concluding with pertinent basic radiologic findings. Only the most basic and essential points of each disease are commented on, which is consistent with the book's goal to educate the general radiologist. Especially helpful to the generalist or non-radiologist health professional are the sections on pulmonary congestion and infection. These high-yield sections could easily be perused in a single night of reading, with excellent recall, again attributable to liberal use of diagrams and figures.

Somewhat disappointing, relative to the other chapters, is the short section on chest trauma. Though the authors discuss the major aspects of chest trauma, this section lacks depth. Chest trauma demands immediate diagnosis, as undiagnosed chest derangement in the emergency setting has a high potential for morbidity or mortality. A more thorough treatment of chest trauma would have better served the reader. I found the radiographs in this section inadequate and I think this section should be expanded in the next edition. Overall, however, the authors do an outstanding job in presenting the chest radiologic montage to the general radiologist,

resident, or non-radiologist health professional.

Chapter 12, on high-resolution CT patterns in pulmonary disease, conveys the bare essentials in this complex category of chest radiology. Clearly, the purpose of this chapter is not to replace more in-depth texts, but, rather, to offer a solid introduction and lexicon for the non-chest radiologist or the non-radiologist. This section is divided into basic patterns commonly encountered on chest CT: ground-glass opacities, peribronchial consolidation, pulmonary nodules, septal thickening and reticular pattern, decreased lung attenuation and cystic lung changes, and mosaic lung density. Each section presents a non-exhaustive differential diagnosis, often with a short description of the pathology and/or radiologic findings. Radiologic examples are illustrative, and, again, prose is kept to a minimum. Although it was not the authors' desire to present an atlas of chest CT, more images would have better served the audience. There are no tables or hand-drawn figures in this section.

Chapter 13 is similar in approach to Chapter 12, but is far superior. Here the authors discuss common chest radiograph findings and associated differential diagnosis. Compared to the chapter on CT, more cases are provided. The illustrative hand-drawn figures and generous use of tables complement the text fabulously. This chapter is obviously polished after 3 editions. Perhaps the chapter on CT will have the same refinement in the next edition.

The final chapter gives an adequate introduction to minimally invasive radiologic diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, including biopsy, drainage, foreign-body retrieval, and arterial embolization.

Radiology of Chest Diseases is worth its weight in gold. It is relatively affordable, at only \$140. The format is concise and very well organized. Compared to similar texts, the number of figures and radiologic examples more than make up for its slightly higher cost. The bindings and print quality are excellent. The images are clear, the figures are very informative, and the discussion is pertinent. Health professionals who would find this text valuable in their clinical practice include non-chest radiologists, radiology residents, pulmonary clinicians, and

any health professional interested in chest radiograph interpretation.

Jonathan Hero Chung MD

Department of Radiology
Harborview Medical Center
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington

The authors of this review report no conflict of interest.

100 Chest X-Ray Problems. Jonathan Corne MA PhD FRCP and Kate Pointon MRCP FRCR. Philadelphia: Elsevier/Churchill Livingstone. 2007. Soft cover, illustrated, 205 pages, \$29.95.

The chest X-ray is often the starting point for evaluation of respiratory complaints, and is therefore encountered daily by many health care providers. It is almost universally available and relatively inexpensive, and it boasts a quick turnover time. In an era of increasingly imaging-intensive medical practice, a thorough understanding of chest radiograph interpretation is a key skill that may aid practitioners in determining appropriate intervention, while lessening their dependence on expensive chest computed tomograms. **100 Chest X-Ray Problems** is a sequel to co-author Corne's instructive *Chest X-Ray Made Easy*, which serves as a companion volume that will help providers apply the principles to actual patient cases.

100 Chest X-Ray Problems is slim and pocket-sized. It includes 100 clinical vignettes, each accompanied by the patient's chest radiograph. Diagnoses and explanations follow each case, in a user-friendly format that encourages readers to learn by self-testing. Overall, it is a quick read and can be reviewed in 2 or 3 hours. The case selection seems appropriate for the book's stated teaching purposes, with cases selected from settings that range from out-patient clinics to in-patient and intensive care. There are radiographs of most common pulmonary complaints, such as pneumonia, congestive heart failure, cancer, and pneumothorax. Also included are examples of rarer but classic pulmonary syndromes and normal variants, including silicosis and Chilaiditi syndrome.

The clinical histories in the cases are succinct and written in simple language. Limited to 1 or 2 lines, they describe the patient's age, relevant medical history, and

subjective complaints. After reading the clinical history and reviewing the radiograph, the reader turns the page to see the authors' interpretation and explanation. This layout feature is beneficial for readers who are tempted to look ahead to the answer at the bottom of a page without giving the clinical problem due consideration.

The explanations are written in a professional but conversational tone that addresses the reader directly. This approach minimizes reader fatigue as one progresses from one case to the next, and helps the authors to frankly emphasize important take-home teaching points. The prose style also offers insight into the authors' thought processes as they viewed the films. Although the authors hail from the United Kingdom, and therefore use terminology and spellings for some clinical entities that differ slightly from those used in the United States, the book is easy to understand.

The analysis for each case has 3 sections: initial impression, interpretation, and summary. The initial impression is a single phrase, written in layman's terms, that simply describes what is seen in the radiograph. Examples include, "Multiple small white nodules in both lungs" or "Increased whiteness in the right lung." This simple descriptive method is taught in *Chest X-Ray Made Easy*, but it is easy to understand without reading *Chest X-Ray Made Easy*, even for those just beginning to read films. A more detailed, 1–3-paragraph explanation follows, which describes the various signs and findings that contribute to the final diagnosis. Most of the interpretations include a differential diagnosis and present a didactic dialogue that is both engaging and informative. Magnified views or images with markings that detail important findings are also included in most interpretations. The text often goes on to suggest diagnostic tests warranted by certain radiographic abnormalities, and for several of the patients describes how the diagnosis was ultimately reached. The text also includes numerous radiographic eponyms, which may be especially useful in academic circles.

The use of real-life patient presentations is among the greatest strengths of this book and facilitates efficient learning. The inclusion of various radiographic presentations of the same disease in different patients is also very helpful. The cases are arranged in order of difficulty, so the first several cases are best suited to readers who have just begun learning, and the later cases would be

most helpful to those seeking to refine their interpretive skills. For those wishing to review particular disease entities, a comprehensive index is included. There are some nice clinical pearls embedded in the text, including a page that explains the basic rules of looking at a lateral chest film. Many of the cases helpfully underline the importance of examining more than just the lung parenchyma, while others illustrate the utility of the chest film in patients with non-pulmonary symptoms.

This book has a few limitations. Though there is an index, the question-and-answer format does not lend itself to easy reference. The book would benefit from a disease-specific table of contents for quick reference. The book's utility lies in its role as an adjunctive learning tool. Its convenient pocket size and short cases encourage quick study during down time or between patients, but this is not a text that would be useful to carry daily on the wards. An introductory review of the basic principles of radiograph interpretation would have been very helpful for beginners, and a brief overview of anatomy on a chest radiograph and perhaps a glossary of common pulmonary terms would complement the cases nicely.

The radiographs differ in quality, as the authors acknowledge in the preface, with the intent that radiographs in real life are often of suboptimal quality but still require interpretation. As the book is sized to fit into the pocket of a medical coat, the radiographs are relatively small, and this format limits interpretation in a few cases. The largest radiographs are approximately 10×13 cm, and most are smaller. Not surprisingly, these scaled-down reproductions lack the crispness of the original radiograph, and there is some graininess. In at least one image I found it difficult to identify the pulmonary abnormality, even after reading the diagnosis and examining the magnified close-up on the following page. In most cases, nevertheless, the image quality is sufficient to read the radiographs accurately.

Though the case selection provides a good representation of typical pulmonary syndromes, it would have also been interesting to include a patient with influenza, given its high incidence and clinical importance. Viral pneumonias, such as severe acute respiratory syndrome and avian influenza, are also currently high-profile diseases that would have complemented the other cases nicely. It was surprising to find that, despite the inclusion of a case involving right-mid-