Essential Applications of Musculoskeletal Ultrasound in Rheumatology

Richard J. Wakefield and Maria A. D'Agostino; Philadelphia: Saunders Elsevier, 2010, 370 pages, \$189 US

This extensive practical guide to rheumatological applications of ultrasonography has been written by the “Who’s Who” of international ultrasonography experts in the field of rheumatology. From the basic concepts of physics relating to ultrasonography to normal and pathological findings, to training and education and future applications, this comprehensive review is an essential text for any rheumatologist currently utilizing this technique.

Each chapter is beautifully illustrated with clear diagrams, photographs of pathological specimens, and immaculate high resolution ultrasound images describing microscopic detail.

Although this text is not specifically designed for the beginner, the chapters on the normal joint and on pitfalls in grey-scale and power Doppler artefacts are essential reading for new practitioners. For established ultrasound practitioners, the chapters relating to pathological findings in bones, tendons, cartilage, muscles, and nerves in patients with rheumatological diseases are a “must read.”

As an extension of most MSK ultrasonography textbooks, this text includes chapters on sports medicine, pediatric rheumatological assessment, examination of the salivary glands, vasculitis, and soft tissue rheumatism. Each chapter describes practical tips for optimizing the technique — the chapter on interventional ultrasonography is an example of an excellent evidence-based practical guide.

In summary, this is the definitive practical text for rheumatological ultrasonography.

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