



Cardiovascular CT and MRI. Clinical Bases

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Those of us formed in the large schools of Medicine and Clinical Semiology practiced in hospital wards or clinics, and who make of physical examination a primary and unavoidable phase of the medical act, celebrate with great enthusiasm the arrival of Cardiovascular CT and MRI. Clinical Bases, by Drs. Granillo Rodríguez, Gómez, Bastarrika and Cademartiri. This is because high complexity diagnostic imaging methods represent an immense amplification of natural human senses and greatly extend the ability to discover and clarify causes, reveal pathophysiological mechanisms, develop forecasts and plan therapeutic strategies. As adequately expressed by Paul Wood, master of cardiology, to maintain an appropriate balance between man and his tools, expert opinion and statistics, medicine at the bedside of the sick and complementary techniques must be achieved.

Having lived intensely the last four decades of medical practice we could see the gradual and consistent development of imaging techniques, which have contributed so substantially to the advancement of cardiovascular medicine. A paradigmatic example is represented by the prodigious journey of computed tomography and cardiovascular magnetic resonance techniques, from the first publications in the seventies until the appearance of works which contain all the information, up-dated and collected in cardiovascular CT and MRI. Clinical Bases.

This book covers a real gap in medical literature that all medical and auxiliary teams involved in the care of cardiovascular patients must receive with great enthusiasm. From the Introduction, the work consists of two main sections: cardiac CT and MR and vascular CT and MRI, including in the latter both arterial and venous territories, thus covering the entire field of cardiovascular medicine. Throughout 31 chapters the interest of all who are involved in cardiology is stimulated, from the student and resident physician to the specialist, since all areas are approached, from basic issues such as atherosclerosis essential concepts (Chapter 1), fundamentals of radiation (chapter 2) and contrast media (Chapter 4), cardiac anatomy (Chapter 6) or principles of magnetic resonance (Chapter 14) to highly topical issues such as MRI and im-

plantable cardiac devices (Chapter 3), characterization of atherosclerotic plaque (chapter 9) application of percutaneous implantation of an aortic prosthesis (Chapter 11) or assessment of coronary flow reserve (Chapter 13).

It clearly exposes a thorough analysis of the existing literature on each topic, whether fundamental works or meta-analysis as well as the personal experience of the authors. Moreover, an infrequent didactic approach is seen by considering two aspects of undoubted educational value. One is the inclusion of a prominent chart of "key concepts" at the beginning of each chapter as a concise message of the theme developed in it. The other is the exemplification of every situation with clinical cases presented in a comprehensive additional online material.

To the authorship of the four editors, the collaboration of a large multinational group of 44 co-authors is added, all highly experienced professionals in the specific areas and with high capacity to transmit their messages in a deep, clear and conceptual manner. One aspect that must be highlighted is the abundance of illustration integrated to text, which could not be absent in a book about images. All chapters contain a significant amount of superlative quality images, many in full color, which graphically illustrate each concept. In addition, the excellence of all the editorial aspect t deserves to be described as outstanding by the qualities of paper and design, including the typestyle employed

The orientation imposed on this work makes it suitable for both studying and learning to daily practice, in the belief that CT and MRI techniques are no longer tools of exceptional use, but increasingly are, and will be in the near future, essential for the management of cardiovascular patients. Surely this work should have a central place in the library of clinicians, internists, cardiologists, cardiac or peripheral vascular surgeons, radiologists, neurologists and young trainees or medical residents of the disciplines involved.

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