
Preface

Magnetic resonance imaging has developed dramatically in recent years, and the technical advances have expanded the range of diagnostic applications. In the abdomen and pelvis, MRI has long developed beyond the experimental stage and is now the method of choice for many indications. With increasing experience, refined and highly specialized imaging techniques have emerged for the different organ systems, making MRI of the abdomen and pelvis a complex field of its own.

This book provides a comprehensive overview of the technically demanding, interesting, and clinically relevant field of abdominopelvic MRI. Each organ or organ system is treated in a separate chapter that can be read independently and begins with a concise description of the specific imaging technique.

The individual chapters can be read as a cookbook with regard to the specific imaging technique and indications for MRI. The presentation of pathologic entities is lavishly illustrated and is completed by a description of the MRI findings and differential diagnoses.

Unique to MRI, especially of the hepatobiliary system, is the availability of a large number of contrast agents. MRI of the liver can be performed with different nonspecific contrast media, which are available all over the world, or with one of several tissue-specific agents. Readers should

be aware that the specific contrast media may not have been approved for all countries or continents and that their approval status is subject to change.

Working on this English edition has made us aware of how difficult it is to keep abreast of technical developments in such a dynamic field as MRI. Thus, new insights at the time of publication might already have outpaced the state of the art at the time of writing.

Many radiologists directly involved in the scientific development of abdominal and pelvic MRI, either in cooperation with us or as independent researchers, have contributed to this book as authors or co-authors. We thank all of them for their dedicated, supportive, and inspiring cooperation. Our thanks also go to the staff of Thieme Publishers for making possible this English edition and to Bettina Herwig for the translation.

We hope that this book will be a useful resource to our colleagues interested in abdominal and pelvic MRI and help them make use of MRI to the benefit of our patients.

*B. Hamm
G.P. Krestin
M. Laniado
V. Nicolas
M. Taupitz*