Anatoliy Granov, Leonid Tiutin, Thomas Schwarz (eds): Positron Emission Tomography

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This book, published by Springer-Verlag, is edited by Anatoliy Granov and Leonid Tiutin working in St. Petersburg, and by Thomas Schwarz of the Medical University of Graz. The authors work mainly at the Russian Research Center of Radiology and Surgical Technologies in St. Petersburg, where PET has been used for 12 years in patients with cancer, and neurological and cardiological diseases. The original Russian edition of this book was published by Foliant in St. Petersburg in 2008. The book provides a systematic review of PET, including the physical basis and methodology and, more extensively, the clinical utility of PET in oncology. A brief analysis of the clinical interest in cardiac and neuropsychiatric diseases is also included. The book comprising 384 pages is structured in three parts. The first, including chapters 1 and 2, describes the basic principles, PET scanners and all the most important technical and methodological issues involved in a PET study, either for a whole-body scan as in oncology or for a regional evaluation as in cerebral and cardiac diseases.

Different radiopharmaceuticals of interest, being clearly central to the role of FDG, are also discussed. The second part, including chapters 3 to 19, provides detailed information on the application of PET in cancer in the different body regions. These chapters are enriched by images, many of them in colour, but not always of satisfactory quality. The third and final part, including chapters 20 and 21, summarizes the diagnostic applications of PET in cardiovascular diseases and neurological disorders. No information is given on the possible role of PET in inflammatory diseases.

The book is a laudable attempt to provide an editorial contribution in a field where many other publications express a certainly wider experience and knowledge. Probably its major interest is in the possibility of acquiring information on the state of the art of nuclear medicine in Russia, where, as referred to by the authors, at present only six PET scanners located only in Moscow and St. Petersburg are in use.

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