E.A. Dunnebie: Imaging for otolaryngologists

Thieme, 2011. 320 pages, approx 460 high-quality illustrations. Approx. € 50,00, £45.00.

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This is a paperback atlas of radiology for otolaryngologists that covers both normal anatomy and frequent pathological findings. The interesting background is that this book was written by an otolaryngologist supplemented by two radiologists. Therefore, the text focuses on the practical needs of otolaryngological surgeons and avoids the usual plethora of nice but irrelevant illustrations that are usually to be found in radiological textbooks. Instead, it summarizes the key concepts of head and neck imaging in a highly readable and easily accessible way.

The basic range of essential otolaryngologic imaging is discussed. However, ultrasound, PET and PET-CT, angiography and magnetic resonance angiography are not covered at all. The central focus is on essential radiological anatomy and image interpretation, including disease-specific characteristics of CT and MRI, the features necessary for successful diagnosis, and the implications for surgery. CT is discussed in more detail than MRI. Each of the 465 high-quality images is clearly labeled, and where appropriate comparisons are made between CT scans and MR images to show complementary functions and limitations. Unfortunately, the section on neck imaging focuses on CT only, while MRI imaging is only discussed for salivary gland disorders.

The text is divided into five sections that guide the reader through basic considerations regarding imaging techniques and interpretation, the temporal bone, skull base, nose and paranasal sinuses, and neck structures. All clinical sections are consistently structured for easy reading: normal anatomy is given in separate sections, followed

by frequent/common diseases and then less frequent yet instructive entities. The presentation of each disease follows a standardized layout with concise explanatory text on how to choose the most appropriate imaging modality, potential differential diagnoses, and points of evaluation.

The author concentrates on key topics that are of immediate interest to otolaryngologists, particularly on the choice of imaging modalities, interpretation of relevant findings, and topographical analysis.

In his preface, the author states that “this book is an illustrated guide to radiologic anatomy of the head and neck as visualized on the most frequently used radiological modalities, that is, conventional radiography, computed tomography, and magnetic resonance imaging. For residents, knowledge of normal radiologic anatomy is a first step in recognizing pathology in this field, diagnosing diseases, and planning surgical procedures. For specialists, this book provides an opportunity to update their knowledge and refine their radiologic diagnostic skill in a time of rapidly progressing radiologic techniques.” The book surely keeps his promise. Having used it for the interpretation of a couple of clinical cases, this portable guide continues to serve as an indispensable tool in my daily clinical practice. Besides, it would be ideally suited to prepare for clinical exams in oto-rhino-laryngology, like the European Board Exams.

A sample chapter can be found on the internet at <http://www.lehmanns.de/media/20777902>. Unfortunately, this pdf document does not provide the high quality of illustrations seen in the book, but it gives a nice impression on how chapters are structured. See for yourself!

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