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Double Contrast Examination of the Colon

Principles and Practice

With a Foreword by Igor Laufer

With 172 Figures

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Foreword

It is a great pleasure for me to introduce and to recommend this much needed text on double contrast examination of the colon. It is aimed both at clinicians who request X-ray examinations of the colon and at radiologists who must perform and interpret these studies.

Over the past decade there has been renewed interest in X-ray examination of the colon despite the tremendous advances in endoscopy and imaging technology. This renewed interest is evidenced by the proliferation of new books on radiology of the colon. However, previous discussions of double contrast examination have concentrated primarily on the technique with too little attention to the understanding and interpretation of the radiologic images.

This volume is unique in its emphasis on the basics of image formation and interpretation. It emphasizes the importance of the anteroposterior relationships of the colon in determining the distribution of barium and air. It also recognizes the influence of location on the radiologic appearance of the lesion.

The authors demonstrate a profound understanding of the principles of double contrast diagnosis as applied to the colon. They also have a good grasp of the gross pathologic changes underlying the radiologic images. The material is presented in a logical and analytical method which should be particularly useful to the beginner in this field. There are many helpful diagrams and the radiographic illustrations are of excellent quality.

I have no doubt that this volume will be of great benefit to all trainees in radiology and to practicing radiologists starting to do or wanting to improve and refine the quality of their double contrast examinations. It will also be a great help to many clinicians who may have been baffled by the mysteries of double contrast colonic radiography.

Radiographic examination of the colon has two components. In the first place, high quality radiographs must be obtained. This can be likened to the painting of a portrait. Secondly, the painter must be able to translate from the language of the radiograph to the language of gross pathology. One of the great virtues of this small volume is that it pays proper respect to both components of the examination.

In this era of explosive developments in technology and of the ever increasing cost of medical care, we owe a great debt of gratitude to Drs. Weissman, Clot, and Grellet for reminding us that the double contrast enema remains a most sensitive technique and is capable of exquisite beauty and life-saving diagnostic accuracy.

IGOR LAUFER, M. D.

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