CARDIOVASCULAR IMAGING BY ULTRASOUND

Developments in Cardiovascular Medicine

VOLUME 134

The titles published in this series are listed at the end of this volume

Cardiovascular Imaging by Ultrasound

Edited by

Peter Hanrath

Rainer Uebis

and

Winfried Krebs

*I Medical Clinic, Medical University Aachen,
Aachen, Germany*

Springer-Science+Business Media, B.V.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Cardiovascular imaging by ultrasound / edited by P. Hanrath, R. Uebis,
and W. Krebs.

p. cm. -- (Developments in cardiovascular medicine ; v. 134)

Includes index.

ISBN 978-94-010-5098-2 ISBN 978-94-011-2490-4 (eBook)

DOI 10.1007/978-94-011-2490-4

1. Echocardiography. I. Hanrath, Peter. II. Uebis, R. (Rainer),
1952- . III. Krebs, W. (Winifred), 1942- . IV. Series.

[DNLM: 1. Cardiovascular Diseases--ultrasonography--congresses.

W1 DE997VME v.134]

RC683.5.U5C39 1992

616.1'07543--dc20

DNLM/DLC

for Library of Congress

92-13423

ISBN 978-94-010-5098-2

Cover illustration copyright K.-H. Jeiter, Aachen

Printed on acid-free paper

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© 1993 Springer Science+Business Media Dordrecht

Originally published by Kluwer Academic Publishers in 1993

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Preface

Cardiovascular Imaging by Ultrasound was the title of an international symposium, held in Aachen on the 26th and 27th of April, 1991. From all over the world scientists and engineers came together to exchange and discuss their most recent experiences in the field of ultrasound based diagnosis and therapy in cardiovascular disease.

No other physical principle has added so much to cardiovascular diagnosis as did the application of echocardiography, introduced in 1954 by Edler and Hertz in Lund. During its more than 40 year history the diagnostic potential of echocardiography experienced a continuous development starting with M-mode, via 2D-echocardiography, the different Doppler-modalities, contrast and stress echocardiography to most recently transesophageal echocardiography; and there is still no end in sight. Based on these facts Dr. Eugene Braunwald (Boston) recently characterized “echocardiography together with open heart surgery as the most important breakthrough in cardiology in the past 4 decades”.

New developments are on the horizon, such as intravascular ultrasound, tissue characterization, ultrasound ablation, ultrasound based 3D-reconstruction of the heart and high frequency Doppler analysis. With the introduction of TEE and intravascular ultrasound hitherto noninvasive echocardiography is rapidly moving into the invasive arena. All these are reasons why the already widespread application of ultrasound is very likely to further increase compared to other cardiovascular imaging techniques.

We cordially thank all the active participants and the publishers; their efforts made it possible to present the highlights of the symposium comprised in this book.

The Editors
Aachen, January 1992

List of contributors

BJØRN A. ANGELSEN

Department of Biomedical Engineering, University of Trondheim, Trondheim 7006, Norway

Co-authors: Stein Dørum, Jon Hoem, Alf O. Brubakk, Terje Skjærpe, Hans G. Torp, Bjørn Olstad, Jørgen Mæhle, Wolfgang Fehske and Klaus Schipper

CHRISTIANE E. ANGERMANN

Head Ultrasound and Image Processing Laboratory, Division of Cardiology, Medical Clinic University of Munchen, Ziemssenstr. 1, DW-8000 München 2, Germany

Co-author: Hans-Ulrich Stempfle

CHUNGUANG CHEN

Department of Cardiology, University Hospital Hamburg, Martinistr. 52, DW-2000 Hamburg 20, Germany

Co-authors: James D. Thomas, Leonardo Rodriguez, Robert A. Levine, Walter Bleifeld, Wolfram Kupper and Arthur E. Weyman

JULIUS MICHAEL CURTIUS

Department of Internal Medicine, III Medical Clinic, University of Cologne, Jozef-Stelzmann-Str. 9, DW-5000 Cologne 41, Germany

Co-authors: Udo Sechtem, P. Theissen, H.J. Deutsch, R. Bachmann, K. Smolarz, H. Schicha and H.H. Hilger

ANTHONY N. DeMARIA

Division of Cardiology, Room MN670, UKMC, University of Kentucky Chandler Medical Center, 800 Rose Street, Lexington, KY 40536-0084, USA

KARL DENNIG

German Heart Center, Lothstrasse 11, DW-8000 München 2, Germany

Co-author: Werner Rudolph

B. DIEBOLD

Unité INSERM 256, Hospital Broussais, 96 Rue Didot, F-75674 Paris Cedex 14, France

Co-authors: Annie Delouche, Jean-Paul Rinaldi, Vincent Bournazel, Alain Berrebi, Philippe Dumée and Philippe Delouche

ALESSANDRO DISTANTE

Cardiology, Clinical Physiology, CNR, Via P. Savi 8, I-56100 Pisa, Italy

Co-authors: Barbara Reisenhofer, Maria Aurora Morales, Mino Zanchi, Eugenio Picano and Antonia l'Abbate

RAIMUND ERBEL

Department of Cardiology, II. Medical Clinic, Johannes Gutenberg University, Langebeckstr. 1, DW-6500 Mainz, Germany

Co-authors: Norbert Wittlich, Stefan Schuster, Susanne Mohr-Kahaly and Jürgen Meyer

JAMES T. FEARNSIDE

Hewlett Packard Co., 3000 Minuteman Drive, Andover, MA 018101, USA

WOLFGANG FEHSKE

Internal Medicine – Cardiology, Medical University Clinic, Sigmund-Freud Str. 25, DW-5300 Bonn 1, Germany

Co-authors: Klaus P. Schipper, Hans G. Torp, Jürgen Maehle, Bjørn A. Angelsen, Bjørn Olstad, Rami Rabahieh, David L. Linker, Andrea Hostert and Berndt Lüderitz

FRANK A. FLACHSKAMPF

Medical Clinic I, RWTH Aachen, Pauwelstrasse 30, DW-5100 Aachen, Germany

BERNHARD GRAF

Department of Cardiology, Clinic for Internal Medicine, University of Rostock, Ernst-Heydemann-Strasse 6, D-2500 Rostock, Germany

Presently at: Department of Cardiology, Clinic of Schwerin, Wismarsche Strasse 397, D-2758 Schwerin, Germany.

Co-authors: Wilhelm Urbaszek and Kamesh Pulya

PETER HANRATH

Medical Clinic I, RWTH Aachen, Pauwelstrasse 30, DW-5100 Aachen, Germany

LIV HATLE

Section of Cardiology, Regional Hospital, University of Trondheim, 7006 Trondheim, Norway

Presently at: Department of Cardiovascular Diseases, King Faisal Specialist Hospital, P.O. Box 3354, Riyadh, Saudi-Arabia.

ROLF JENNI

Division of Cardiology, Echocardiography, Department of Internal Medicine, University Hospital, Rämistrasse 100, CH-8091 Zürich, Switzerland

Co-authors: Gabor Sütsch, Franz Eberli, Manfred Ritter and Hans Peter Krayenbühl

RICHARD E. KERBER

Cardiology Division, University of Iowa, College of Medicine, Iowa City, IA 52242, USA

Co-authors: David D. McPherson and Alan Ross

JOSEPH KISSLO

Box 3818, Duke University Medical Center, Rm. 2103-C, Davison Bldg., Durham, NC 27710, USA

Co-authors: David Adams, J. Peter Longabaugh and Sheila Kim Heinle

WINFRIED KREBS

Medical Clinic I, RWTH Aachen, Pauwelstrasse 30, DW-5100 Aachen, Germany

HELMUT F. KÜCHERER

Department of Cardiology, Internal Medicine III, University of Heidelberg, Bergheimerstrasse 58, DW-6900 Heidelberg, Germany

Co-author Chapter 3: Nelson B. Schiller

Co-authors Chapter 18: Joseph A. Abbott, Elias H. Botvinick, Michael Dae, Elan D. Scheinman, J. William O'Connell, Melvin M. Scheinman, Elyse Foster and Nelson B. Schiller

HEINZ LAMBERTZ

German Clinic for Diagnostics, Aukammallee 33, DW-6200 Wiesbaden, Germany

Co-authors: Hildegard Trümper and Peter Hanrath

MARTIN B. LEON

The Washington Cardiology Center, Suite 4B-14, 110 Irvine St., NW,
Washington, DC 20010, USA

Co-authors: Gary S. Mintz and Gad Keren

ROBERT A. LEVINE

Cardiac Ultrasound Laboratory, Massachusetts General Hospital, Philips
House 8, Boston, MA 02114, USA

Co-authors: Mark D. Handschumacher and Arthur E. Weyman

DAVID T. LINKER

Presently at: Department of Echocardiography, Thoraxcentre, Ba 300,
Erasmus University, P.O. Box 1738, 3000 DR Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Affiliation: Department of Cardiology, Academic Hospital of Rotterdam,
Erasmus University, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Co-author: Paul G. Yock

RANDOLPH P. MARTIN

Director of Non-Invasive Cardiology, Emory University School of Medi-
cine, Room F606, 1364 Clifton Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30322, USA

Co-authors: Alan F. Appelbe and Thomas D. Martin

ANDREAS MÜGGE

Department of Cardiology, Medical University Hannover, Konstanty-Gut-
schow-Str. 8, DW-3000 Hannover 61, Germany

Co-authors: Dirk Hausmann and Werner G. Daniel

STEVEN NISSEN

Director, Coronary Care Unit, University of Kentucky, Chandler Medical
Center, 800 Rose Street, Lexington, KY 40536-0084, USA

Co-authors: John C. Gurley, David C. Booth and Anthony N. De Maria

JULIO E. PÉREZ

Cardiovascular Division, Washington University School of Medicine, Box
8086, 660 South Euclid Avenue, St Louis, MO 63110, USA

Co-author: James G. Miller

LUC A. PIERARD

Service de Cardiologie, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire, de Liege (CHU
du Sart-Tilman), B-4000 Liege, Belgium

Co-authors: Christian De Landsheere, Christian Berthe, Pierre Melon, Pierre Rigo and Henri E. Kulbertus

RICHARD L. POPP

Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, CA 94305, USA

Co-author: Hannah Valantine

JOS R.T.C. ROELANDT

Thoraxcenter, BD 408, University Hospital Dijkzigt, P.O. Box 1738, 3000 DR Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Co-authors: Carlo Di Mario, Pim J. de Feyter, Marcel van den Brand, Patrick W. Serruys and Nicolaas Bom

MICHAEL SCHARTL

Department of Cardiology, University Clinic Rudolf Virchow/Charlottenburg, Spandauer Damm 130, D-1000 Berlin 19, Germany

Co-authors: Stefan Beckmann, Oliver Franke, Wolfgang Bocksch, Reinhard Schlieff and Thomas Fritzschn

NELSON B. SCHILLER

University of California, M342A-Box 0214, San Francisco, CA 94143, USA

EHUD SCHWAMMENTHAL

Medical Clinic and Policlinic C, Wilhelms-University, Albert-Schweitzer-Strasse 33, DW-4400 Münster, Germany

Co-authors: Thomas Wichter, Michael Block, Bodo Schwartkopff, Benno Lösse and Günther Breithardt

JAMES B. SEWARD

Division of Cardiovascular Diseases and Internal Medicine, Mayo Clinic, 200 1st Str., SW, Rochester, MN 55905, USA

ROBERT J. SIEGEL

Division of Cardiology, Room 5314, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, 8700 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90048, USA

Co-authors: John R. Crew and David C. Cumberland

GEORGE R. SUTHERLAND

Department of Cardiology, Western General Hospital, Crewe Road, Edinburgh EH4 2XU, UK

Co-author: Oliver F.S. Stümper

FOLKERT J. TEN CATE

Thoraxcenter, Ba 350, Erasmus University, P.O. Box 1738, 3000 DR Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Co-authors: Jan Hein Cornel, Petr Widimsky, Pim J. de Feyter and Patrick W. Serruys

RAINER UEBIS

Medical Clinic I, RWTH Aachen, Pauwelstrasse 30, DW-5100 Aachen, Germany

Co-authors: Silvia Nase-Hüppmeier and Peter Hanrath

HELENE VON BIBRA

1. Medical Clinic and Policlinic of the TU, Clinic r.d. Isar, Ismaninger Str. 22, DW-8000 München 80, Germany

Co-authors: Harald Becher, Eva Paulus, Franz Hartmann, Reinhard Schlieff, Hans Peter Emslander and Wolfgang Baedeker

HELMUT WOLLSCHLÄGER

III Department of Internal Medicine, Cardiology, Medical University Clinic, Hugstetter Str. 55, DW-7800 Freiburg I.Br, Germany

Co-authors: Andreas M. Zeiher, Anette Geibel, Wolfgang Kasper and Hanjörg Just