

## Preface

Conventional radiography remains the backbone of our specialty despite the advent of newer and possibly more exciting imaging techniques such as computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, and, most recently, positron emission tomography. In contrast to many of these newer methods, conventional radiography is practiced not only by radiologists but also by a large number of clinicians and surgeons. With each examination, one is confronted with radiologic findings that require interpretation in order to arrive at a general diagnostic impression and a reasonable differential diagnosis. To assist the film interpreter in attaining this goal, this book is based upon radiographic findings, unlike most other textbooks in radiology that are disease oriented. Since many diseases present radiographically in a variety of manifestations, some overlap in the text is unavoidable. To minimize repetition, the differential diagnosis of a radiographic finding is presented in tabular form whenever feasible. Most tables list not only the various diseases that may present radiologically in a specific pattern, but also describe in succinct form other characteristically associated radiographic findings and pertinent clinical data. Radiographic illustrations and drawings are included to demonstrate visually the radiographic features under discussion.

The transition from film to digital radiography has had a great impact on conventional radiology since the publication of the last edition. This change, however, did not affect the way radiologic diagnoses are ascertained. Since the publication of the last edition the names of a few disorders have changed (e.g., histiocytosis X is now known as Langerhans cell histiocytosis) and a few new diseases have been recognized (e.g., femoroacetabular impingement and severe acute respiratory distress syndrome or SARS). These facts were taken into consideration in this new edition. The chapters "Localized Bone Lesions" and "Joint Diseases" have been completely rewritten and newly illustrated since I took them over from Dr. Kormano. The chapter "Trauma and Fractures" has also undergone a major overhaul with the inclusion of specific fracture sites. Several chapters in the abdominal sec-

tion considered to be of lesser importance in the age of computed tomography have been eliminated to comply with the publisher's request not to alter the overall volume of text. The chapter on mammography has been deleted because the subject could no longer be covered with the required depth to be useful in the framework of this text. In the remaining chapters, text has been updated, many illustrations replaced, and a large number of new illustrations added.

A "changing of the guard" has also taken place. Since Dr. Martti Kormano's professional endeavors no longer include clinical radiology, he was not able to take on the task of updating his original contributions to the text. Fortunately for all concerned, he was able to find in Dr. Tomi Pudas a very talented young radiologist to take over the revision of his original chapters.

I hope this new revised third edition will be as well received as the previous editions. The concept of an imaging pattern approach in tabular form rather than a disease-oriented text was introduced in 1985 with the first edition of *Differential Diagnosis in Conventional Radiology* and has since been adopted by many authors. I take this as a compliment; after all, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

This book is meant for physicians with some experience in conventional radiology who wish to strengthen their diagnostic acumen. It is a comprehensive outline of radiographic findings and will be particularly useful to radiology residents preparing for their specialist examination, especially since the exposure to conventional radiography during their training continuously decreased in the past in favor of newer imaging modalities. Any physician involved in the interpretation of conventional radiographs should find this book helpful in direct proportion to his or her curiosity.

It is my hope that the third edition of *Differential Diagnosis in Conventional Radiology* will prove as interesting as its predecessors to medical students, residents, radiologists, and physicians involved in the interpretation of conventional radiographs.

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