

Medicine is fortunately in a constant state of flux. New technological developments in particular—for example, in the field of multislice computed tomography—are constantly leading to changes in procedures. In this new edition, we have taken account of this and have completely revised the section on CT. We have also omitted several positioning techniques, such as the intravenous gallbladder examination, as they are no longer up to date, and have included new ones on the basis of the many suggestions that we were delighted to receive from readers of the previous edition.

As always, we have benefited from considerable help in revising the book. Special thanks are due here to the technical assistants in our department, Sabrina Eisenbarth, Anna-M. Kettenis, Lilia Otto, and Andrea Wahl for their resourceful assistance. Our team of authors and experts has also been expanded, and this will certainly have led to a further improvement in quality. We have also made an effort to take account of the relevant guidelines issued by the specialist societies.

We are continuing our efforts to improve this volume even more for later editions and would be most grateful to receive any criticisms and suggestions from readers.

Dillingen, fall 2008  
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