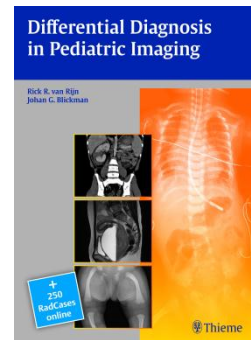


Differential Diagnosis in Pediatric Imaging

Author(s): Van Rijn/Blickman
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This book may look like a new edition of Differential Diagnosis in Pediatric Radiology (Thieme, 1999), but it is truly a new book, dealing with all paediatric imaging modalities, written by two authors, from Europe and the US, and 21 other contributors from across the globe, giving it a breadth of experience to draw on, and resulting in an excellent book.

As with all books of differential diagnosis, it is reliant on lists and tables. However, these are also supplemented by paragraphs of text introducing various conditions; for example the page discussing craniosynostosis is a very concise and coherent treatment of a difficult topic, and there is a good discussion of abnormalities of renal contour. The lists, or tables, are themselves comprehensive. The brief discussion of each entity captures the salient features for differentiating it from other conditions. Importantly, normal appearances, normal variants and technical issues are included, such as buckling of the trachea in expiration, the Mach effect, and the effect of rotation on the chest x-ray. These will be very valuable to the trainee starting out in paediatric radiology.

The tables are very well laid out, and, unlike many other textbooks, divided so that the images are almost always on the same page as the corresponding text. There is very good cross-referencing of images and tables, with only a rare error, which I am sure will be corrected in the next printing. Image quality is, in general, excellent, and the number of images used is very generous.

There are touches of humour throughout, whether inadvertent, with a rogue spellchecker substituting 'interloper' for intralobar in the discussion of sequestration; or deliberate, such as the illustrations of total anomalous pulmonary venous return including a chest radiograph of a child wearing a scimitar on a necklace.

The last chapter in the book has gathered together normal values in paediatric imaging, from renal length, through thymic size to pituitary volume. This alone would make the book a welcome addition to any radiology department. But the comprehensive treatment of paediatric differential diagnosis must make this a useful reference for a general radiologist, or a starting point in paediatric imaging for trainees. It will be a well-used investment in any department.