Vascular and Interventional Radiology: The Requisites, second edition

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Reviewed by: Dr Simon Padley, consultant radiologist, Chelsea and Westminster Hospital and Royal Brompton Hospital, and reader in radiology, Imperial College School of Medicine, London. Dr Narayanan Thulasidasan, ST5 interventional radiology, Chelsea and Westminster Hospital.

This is the second edition of this title in the popular and well-received Requisites series from the Elsevier publishing house.

Trainees and established consultants alike will know that developments in interventional radiology occur at a notoriously fast pace – reports of new techniques are rapidly disseminated at conferences and via journals, with enthusiastic promotion from equipment manufacturers.

Therefore any attempt to write a comprehensive textbook on the subject often results in much of the finished product being out-of-date by the time of publication. With this in mind, rather than attempting to provide exhaustive ‘how to’ guides for each and every device on the market, the authors have instead focused on refreshing this edition by outlining the indications/contraindications, common principles and complications of the full array of vascular and non-vascular interventions from neck to toe. The result is a volume that should retain its utility for several years to come, both as a primer for radiology trainees and fellows at the start of their IR training and as a reference for more experienced interventionists.

There are important and expected chapters on the fundamentals of angiography and non-invasive vascular imaging. However, in recognition of the increasingly ‘patient-facing’ role that interventional radiologists now fulfil, the clinical rationale for each procedure is outlined in full. Background pathophysiology of each condition is also described – the arteriopathies in particular detail – and these sections will be extremely useful for trainees studying for the new EBIR
examination, along with going some way towards closing the gap in knowledge in this area between radiologists and vascular surgeons.

An entire chapter on the percutaneous drainage of fluid collections in almost every part of the body contains several pearls of wisdom that are generally only acquired by bitter experience, and will come as a boon to senior registrars beginning to undertake these often-complex procedures independently.

The Key Collateral Pathways sections included for each vascular territory are another example of how the authors are clearly in tune with the day-to-day needs of the intervention-alist, and will ensure that this volume secures a permanent spot on the angio suite bookshelf. Although the layout initially appears a little text-heavy, the prose flows easily and is complemented by excellent angiographic and cross-sectional images, along with schematic diagrams to demonstrate key concepts.

Our only minor criticisms would be that the breast intervention chapter is arguably superfluous given that in the UK only breast radiologists perform these procedures. In a similar vein, new developments in musculoskeletal intervention probably warrant their own textbook rather than the somewhat meagre 17 pages allocated to them here. However, for core interventional radiology practitioners, this book is highly recommended as a manageable and affordable source of succinct and accurate information.

This book can be purchased through the RAD Magazine Book Service at the discounted rate of £54.49. (Price correct as at December 10, 2014).
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