

Cardiac CT

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The development of cardiac CT continues apace and this book is a most welcome addition to recent publications on the subject. As an increasing number of radiologists and hospitals start to take up the challenges of establishing and running a cardiac CT service, this book should provide invaluable assistance. With 333 pages and 21 chapters, it is beautifully illustrated throughout. There is an excellent array of images which have been obtained from a range of machines and other modalities providing a concise and comprehensive review.

The book is well-organised and leads the reader through a practical approach to establishing a cardiac CT service and should prove valuable to radiologists and radiographers. There is an impressive array of contributors all of whom draw on their own valuable expertise.

Early chapters are primarily concerned with the requirements and indications for performing successful cardiac CT as well as giving a brief introduction to the relevant anatomy. There is a clear account of the requirements and steps needed to perform and acquire high quality cardiac CT examinations with a number of useful tips and tricks on both the acquisition and interpretation of images being provided to facilitate the learning process.

For centres contemplating introducing a cardiac CT service there is also some helpful advice about utilisation of the different CT machines available. All four of the major manufacturers have a chapter dedicated to their current machines, including clear and concise instructions about the user interface. Even if one is already familiar with equipment from one manufacturer, the chapters about other manufacturer's CT products provide some useful background that is certainly of interest to radiographic and technical staff, if not to radiologists. These four chapters were of particular interest to the radiographers working in our own department who were reluctant to give the book back for me to review!

Having bought and installed your CT and started to acquire the images on appropriate patients, the next few chapters are primarily concerned with image interpretation and have some useful aides to generating and formatting cardiac CT reports. These should be of particular value to trainee radiologists or radiologists starting to report cardiac examinations.

The vast majority of cardiac CT examinations are for the initial investigation of patients with chest pain for the diagnosis of coronary artery disease and evaluation of coronary grafts, and both these areas are well covered. There are further chapters on non-coronary applications including valve disease, congenital heart disease and cardiac function. The last chapter does a little crystal ball gazing with a brief account of likely future developments, with stent assessment, perfusion and viability imaging being foremost.

In summary, I think this is an essential part of the CT library.

***This book can be purchased through the RAD Magazine Book Service at the discounted rate of £102.38. (Price correct as at January 18, 2012).
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