

Clinical Imaging with Skeletal, Chest and Abdominal Pattern Differentials

Third Edition. Dennis M Marchiori 2014. Elsevier, St Louis. ISBN 978-0-323-08495-6. Hard Cover. Recommended retail price \$263.15. doi 10.15619/NZJP/43.3.08

This is an updated and revised third edition of this text, which is aimed at covering medical imaging for health science students and health professionals. The size of the text, with over 1460 pages, gives an indication of the comprehensive nature of the included material. There are no additional chapters in this new edition but there are over 800 new or replacement images as well as updated references.

The first part covers an introduction to imaging with plain film imaging, followed by specialised imaging, which includes magnetic resonance imaging, computerised tomography and radionuclide imaging. The focus is on plain film imaging with less emphasis on other forms of specialised imaging. Digital imaging is briefly described, which could have been expanded upon, especially given most imaging these days is in digital format. Radiographic positioning is also covered, which is relevant for radiography students, as well as roentgenometrics, film interpretation, report writing and normal anatomy and variants.

Bones, joints and soft tissues are included in Part 2, which is pertinent for musculoskeletal physiotherapists, as it incorporates a broad range of diseases, traumas and infections. Much of the terminology used is reflective of the target audience, with the use of American spelling and a section indicating the classification scheme of chiropractic subluxation. The section on arthritides contains recent and reasonably detailed information on inflammatory conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis, which includes the most recent 2010 classification criteria.

Parts 3, 4 and 5 detail imaging of the chest, abdomen, brain and spinal cord respectively. These sections would be of interest to a clinician working in an acute care setting. The traditional process of providing an image that is representative of a disease is replaced with a format designed to allow the reader to engage in analysing the images in a more clinical manner, by using pattern recognition to determine potential differential diagnoses. The online material, which is available with a scratch code, includes case studies and flash cards for the student and examinations and images which are able to be used by course instructors.

Overall this is a reasonably comprehensive text, which caters to a wide range of health science students and clinicians. The scope of this text is however broad, which means that some content areas are less detailed than others. There are many imaging texts available but for a musculoskeletal physiotherapy student looking for a smaller text which covers musculoskeletal imaging, an alternative would be *Diagnostic Imaging for Physical Therapists* (Swain & Bush, 2008). A similar alternative text which covers all regions of the body and which has previously been recommended to medical students is *Squire's Fundamentals of Radiology* (Novelline, 2004).

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REFERENCES

- Novelline RA (2004). *Squire's Fundamentals of Radiology* (Sixth ed.). Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
- Swain J, Bush K (2008). *Diagnostic Imaging for Physical Therapists*. St Louis: Saunders Elsevier.