

Preface

Conventional radiography remains the backbone in thoracic radiology despite the advent of newer and more exciting imaging techniques such as computed tomography, high resolution computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging and most recently positron emission tomography. In contrast to many of these newer methods, conventional radiography is practiced not only by radiologists but also by a large number of clinicians and surgeons. With each examination, one is confronted with radiologic findings that require interpretation in order to arrive at a general diagnostic impression and a reasonable differential diagnosis. To assist the film reader in attaining this goal this book is based upon radiographic findings unlike most other textbooks in radiology that are disease oriented. Since many diseases present radiographically in a variety of manifestations some overlap in the text is unavoidable. To minimize repetition the differential diagnosis of a radiographic finding is presented in tabular form whenever feasible. Most tables do not only list the various diseases that may present radiologically in a specific pattern, but also describe in succinct form other characteristically associated radiographic findings and pertinent clinical data. Radiographic illustrations and drawings are included to demonstrate visually the radiographic features under discussion.

The transition from film to digital radiography had the greatest impact on conventional radiology since the publication of the last edition. This change however did not affect the way radiologic diagnoses are ascertained. Since the publication of the last edition in 1992 the name of a few disorders has changed (e. g., histiocytosis X to Langerhans cell histiocytosis) and a few diseases are newly recognized (e. g. severe acute respiratory distress syndrome or SARS). These facts were taken into account in the new edition. The text

was updated, many illustrations replaced and large numbers of new illustrations added.

A changing of the guard has also taken place. Since Dr. Martti Kormano's professional endeavors do no longer include clinical radiology, he felt no longer up to the task to update his original contributions to the text. He was however very fortunate to find in Dr. Tomi Pudas a very talented young radiologist to take over the revision of the chapters originally prepared by him.

I hope this new edition will be as well received as its predecessors in the past that produced several spin-off books and were translated into five foreign languages. The concept of an imaging pattern approach in tabular form rather than a disease oriented text was introduced in 1985 with the original edition and has since been adopted by many authors. I feel complimented by the old cliché, "imitation is the sincerest form of flattery."

This book is meant for physicians with some experience in chest radiology who wish to strengthen their diagnostic acumen. It is a comprehensive outline of radiographic findings and it should be particularly useful to radiology residents preparing for their specialist examinations, especially since the exposure to conventional radiography during their training continuously decreased in the past in favor of newer imaging modalities. Any physician involved in the interpretation of conventional chest radiograph examinations should find this book helpful in direct proportion to his curiosity.

It is my hope that this new edition will be as well received as the previous ones by medical students, residents, radiologists and physicians involved in the interpretation of conventional chest radiographs were.

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Francis A. Burgener, M.D.

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