

Preface

After the publication of *Learning Diagnostic Imaging*, which was an introductory teaching file to the ten radiological subspecialties included in the American Boards of Radiology, we began to write a series of teaching files on each radiological subspecialty.

If the first book of the series was mainly aimed at residents and provided them with an introductory tool to the study of radiology, the subsequent volumes of the series try to provide the reader with an introduction to the study of each radiological subspecialty.

In *Learning Cardiac Imaging*, we intend to review cardiac imaging from the perspective of the six imaging modalities usually performed to obtain anatomic and functional information of the heart.

In old days, conventional radiographs gave us some information about the anatomy and, only secondarily, the pathophysiology of the heart. With the advent of echocardiography, the heart could be studied dynamically. Nuclear Medicine and Cardiac MR allowed the study of cardiac function. 32- and 64-detector multislice CT let us obtain images of the coronary tree in a noninvasive approach.

Cardiac imaging is complex and many health care professionals are needed, firstly, in the obtention and, secondly, in the interpretation of the images. Not only radiologists, cardiologists, and nuclear medicine physicians are needed, specialized nurses and technicians are indispensable to obtain diagnostic images of such a dynamic anatomic structure as the heart.

The authorship of the book reflects its multidisciplinary approach of the book. Only the cooperation of radiologists, cardiologists, and nuclear medicine physicians has made this book possible.

The multiplicity of imaging modalities currently performed in the study of the heart – conventional radiology, conventional angiography, echocardiography, multislice CT, magnetic resonance, and nuclear medicine – is one of the most distinguishing features of cardiac imaging and it makes it one of the most attractive areas of the radiological knowledge.

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RAMÓN RIBES



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Ribes, R.; Kuschnir, P.; Luna, A.; Vilanova, J.C.;

Jimenez-Hoyuela, J.M. (Eds.)

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