Preface

Magnetic resonance angiography, in short MRA, is a fast growing imaging procedure that fills many sessions of our busy MR suites.

However, at early introduction, when only unenhanced sequences could be acquired by using phase contrast and time-of-flight, MRA was considered just an optional tool that could be used to complement a standard MRI examination.

Nowadays, the technique is a well-established noninvasive angiographic examination, substitutive of conventional diagnostic angiography and of paramount importance in many clinical situations.

The use of contrast-enhanced sequences has improved both contrast and spatial resolution, making MRA a key imaging tool in the study of abdominal aorta and peripheral vessels, where it plays a significant role in the planning of interventional procedures.

Moreover, MRA is increasingly moving toward the study of more complex clinical situations, as in the case of transplantation surgery.

This book was made possible because of the valuable contributions of many outstanding experts in this field, and it covers all the relevant clinical applications of MRA in the study of the whole body. Starting from the basic imaging techniques, it moves to a detailed description of the vascular anatomy and deals with the most appropriate strategies for the diagnosis of vascular pathology.

We hope that this book may help practicing radiologists in making the best use of this exciting methodology, and encourage referring physicians to include MRA in the diagnostic work-up of their patients.

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