Preface to the Second Edition

The publication of this second revised edition of the practical guide on virtual colonoscopy less than 4 years after the publication of the first edition underscores the big interest for CT colonography. In the past 4 years, the promising expectations of the technique were confirmed by several large multicenter studies obtaining very good results for colorectal neoplasia detection. This was possible by establishing a state-of-the-art technique of CT colonography (CTC) in combination with image interpretation performed by experienced teams. This updated edition confirms the efforts of the international CTC community to promote this technique as a widely accepted imaging technique for exploring the colon for colorectal neoplasia. In the past 4 years, these efforts have been focused on the development and fine tuning of the state-of-the-art application of CTC in order to allow widespread implementation of a high-quality total colonic examination. All different aspects of the CTC technique are widely covered in this edition. In the past years, it also became obvious that a structured education is mandatory in obtaining sufficient expertise in CTC before starting the technique in a clinical practice. This expertise will prove invaluable for CTC to become a robust technique performed on a high scientific level by a large community of radiologists. Once this goal is achieved, it will be possible considering reimbursement of CTC and its use as tool for population-based screening for colorectal cancer.

We are very grateful to all authors of the first and second edition, who made both issues a very rich resource of information on CT colonography and to the series editor of this book, Professor Dr. A.L. Baert, who enabled this second revised edition.

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