

## BOOK REVIEW

### FUNDAMENTALS OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE

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This book is aimed to be a basic guidebook for clinical nuclear medicine and is designed to assist medical students and physicians in becoming acquainted with nuclear medicine procedures. In this respect the book certainly succeeds in its aim since it provides very good basic coverage of the types of study available to the referring physician.

The general organisation of the book is good and it is adequately illustrated by normal and pathological images for each of the procedures described. After brief introductory chapters on radiation and radiation risk the format of the book is based upon coverage of each major organ system, each section concluding with a selection of articles for further reading. There are also more general chapters describing the role of nuclear medicine in the evaluation of trauma, inflammatory processes and cancer. A final chapter describes non-imaging procedures. This last chapter is somewhat inadequate and could perhaps have been improved by a more extensive and up-to-date reading list. The very brief immunoassay section concentrates upon thyroid hormones and I was unable to find even a short list of other drugs and hormones that can be conveniently measured by this technique. The book has a useful appendix which deals with the sensitivity and specificity of the procedures discussed and a glossary of terms likely to be encountered.

As might be expected from an SNM publication, the book tends to be slanted towards the practice in North America and some of the radiopharmaceuticals in more regular, although limited, use in Europe, e.g.  $^{81m}\text{Kr}$ ,  $^{123}\text{I}$  radiopharmaceuticals, adrenal cortical imaging agents are only mentioned in passing, if at all. However, the book does refer to recent developments such as  $^{111}\text{In}$  cell labelling, brain perfusion imaging with iodoamphetamine

and radioimmunoassay and in this respect can be said to be well up-to-date. On a more disappointing note the book concentrates on traditional units 'in the interests of familiarity'. In view of the fact that the book is meant as an introduction to the subject for medical students and physicians this seems a contradiction in terms. The opportunity could have been taken to introduce the SI system at least side-by-side with traditional units.

All in all the book is a good first introduction for clinicians and others new to the field which should stimulate further interest in the practice of nuclear medicine.

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