Comprehensive Textbook of Echocardiography: Volume 2
Navan C. Nanda
$325.

With the release of volume 2 of the Comprehensive Textbook on Echocardiography, Prof Nanda has provided his readers with the definitive reference for virtually every application of echocardiography. In the first volume, a collection of internationally recognized experts provided the reader with concise introductions to the concepts of the basic physics of ultrasound, fundamentals of 3-dimensional imaging, novel technology and instrumentation, and a variety of newer applications, including epiaortic ultrasound and 3-dimensional echocardiographic guidance in the practice of structural heart disease.

In volume 2, Prof Nanda starts with a chapter devoted to 1 of the earliest and most time-honored elements of a complete echocardiogram, M-mode assessment of left ventricular systolic function. From there, he branches out to comprehensive explorations of diastology, assessment of right ventricular function, complex congenital heart disease in infancy and adulthood, and more. Having started at the very beginning of echocardiography, this volume ends with very well-written overviews introducing the reader to the concepts of cardiac magnetic resonance imaging and cardiac computed tomography scanning, thus bringing the reader full circle. These closing chapters remind us that, although newer technologies are very exciting, echocardiography remains the mainstay of clinical cardiologic imaging and continues to provide fertile opportunities for clinical and bench research.

This volume is composed of 35 chapters and 955 pages of text. The still images in the text are of uniformly high quality. What makes the volume exceptional, however, is inclusion of 4 different interactive DVD-ROMs, with hundreds of movie clips and hours of viewing opportunities. The content represents a virtual encyclopedia of cardiac pathology and pathophysiology. Still figures in the text that have associated cines are marked with a camera icon, and readers can activate the accompanying cine on their computer to view them. This powerful combination of well-written text and high-quality digital content makes for an exciting and enjoyable learning experience.

Prof Nanda has played a pivotal role in advancing the field of echocardiography for decades. This could not be more evident than by appreciating the multinational authorship contributing to this work. He has succeeded in securing thought leaders in the field from virtually every corner of the globe, including the United States, European Union, Middle East, India, Japan, and others. Prof Nanda himself contributes to 6 chapters. Chapters are clearly written, well illustrated, and extremely well referenced for those who wish to read further.

As a cardiac ultrasound laboratory director at a university-affiliated teaching hospital, I cannot imagine a more useful reference for fellows in training, sonographers, and attending physicians themselves. It is hard to believe the breadth of coverage provided, particularly noting the inherent complexities of applied ultrasound. Prof Nanda is to be congratulated for providing us with the definitive reference to all things cardiac ultrasound.

Disclosures
None.

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