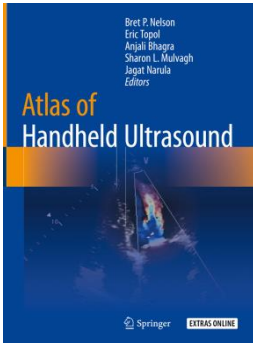


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Atlas of Handheld Ultrasound

Nelson, Topol, Bhagra, Mulvagh, Narula

REVIEW INFO



Publisher:
Springer

ISBN:
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REVIEW

Book reviewed by Dr Dan Bell, consultant radiologist, North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust.

The *Atlas of Handheld Ultrasound* is a slim volume intended as a guide to point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS), which of course is rapidly becoming an essential tool in the diagnostic armamentarium of the non-imaging specialist. Although this book bombastically claims to be "...a critical resource on how to use the modality for both specialist and non-specialist practitioners," I believe that it is squarely aimed at the non-specialist, not just doctors, but also nurses, physiotherapists, and indeed anyone who wishes to incorporate ultrasound into their routine clinical practice.

Nevertheless, I believe it is still important that this book is judged from a radiologist's perspective, not least because many sonographic findings diagnosed by our colleagues in primary care, the emergency department and critical care unit, lead to additional imaging and workload for the radiology department.

This is a slender book (only 213 pages), subdivided into 40 short chapters, each concentrating on the ultrasound of one part of the anatomy (eg knee) or the place of ultrasound in common clinical scenarios, eg chest pain. Concision of material is a definite plus point for the overworked clinician who does not want to wade through reams of material when on the shop floor.

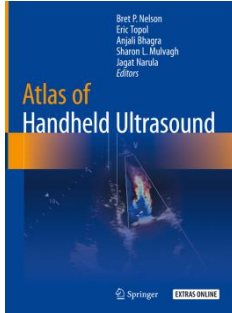
Each chapter has useful tips and photos on scanning technique, including the best probe to use and where to place it on the patient. In a book of this brevity, it is not possible to cover any topic in great detail, which means that many pathologies are given short shrift, but as this book is primarily for the busy clinician at the coalface, this is usually enough.

The accompanying online ultrasound cine clips would be beneficial for

review continues ...

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REVIEW*... review continued*

someone trying to get insight into optimal scanning technique, although it appears some readers would have to pay additional fees to view all the material, which seems a bit of a cheek when the book might have already cost close to £200. However ultimately, of course, neither this book nor its interactive material is a substitute for proper training and, most importantly, personally scanning lots and lots of real cases – both normal and abnormal.

Flaws in the book include poor quality images in the thyroid section, although image reproduction for the rest of the book is good. When nodal size is discussed in the neck chapter it does not state that it is short axis diameter that is important, so that patients with normal-sized nodes might end up being incorrectly investigated. And in the eye chapter, the authors mix up the posterior chamber and posterior segment.

In summary, I feel that this book would be useful as an introductory text for the busy clinician who is learning POCUS. However, I do not think it would be of much use in the main ultrasound department, where its lack of depth would be a major limitation.

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