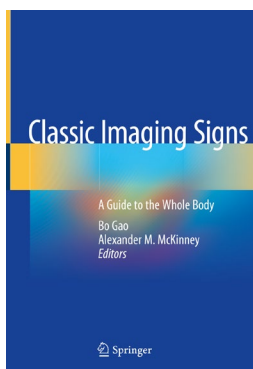## Book shelf

Classic Imaging Signs – A Guide to the Whole Body

Gao, McKinney

REVIEW INFO

Publisher:
Springer

ISBN:
978-3-030-56347-9

RRP:
£139.99 / eBook £79.50

RAD Magazine price:
£111.99 / eBook £63.60*

Prices correct as at November 16, 2022, please call (01371) 812960 for current prices.

REVIEW

Book reviewed by Dr Daniel J Bell, consultant radiologist, North Middlesex University Hospital.

This new volume aims to provide a thorough review of many of the classic signs described in radiology. Like other texts of this kind, the book has been compiled by two main editors marshalling a long list of contributors. After a short introductory chapter, which has some interesting discussions about the use of signs in radiology generally, there follow nine chapters covering the body systems. For each described sign, a short description of its features and its diagnostic significance is provided. This is followed by a longer and often extremely interesting discussion section about the science of the sign, its validity and, more generally, the pathology in question.

This book is certainly comprehensive in scope; its contents page lists 255 individual signs, which compares favourably to *Radiopaedia* at around 300 or so.

I really enjoyed reviewing this book because of the opportunity it afforded me to relearn about many classic imaging signs while learning some new ones. The reproduced imaging appearances are of high quality and demonstrate the signs well. For many of the appearances there are good explanations of the underlying science of the signs, which helps to reinforce mental retention. The compilers do not explore the history of each sign, but this is not a major omission.

I am sceptical about the nature of some of the signs presented here. Not so much that the described appearances may be seen with certain diseases – there is certainly no doubt that they may – but more whether they are bona fide signs. For example, the 'soft rattan sign', apparently a sign of intrahepatic bile duct dilatation, is one of which I had not heard hitherto. The authors provide no citations supporting this sign, and a comprehensive internet search demonstrates no hits. Several other described signs are

review continues ...

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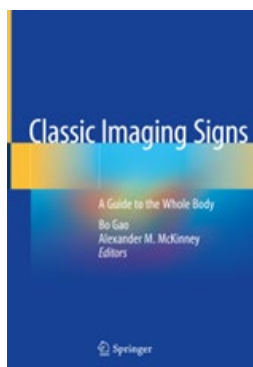
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REVIEW

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similarly contrived. Moreover, the very title of the book employs the qualifier 'classic', suggesting that the signs herein should be established signs, and several of these so-called signs are clearly not.

However, my major concern about the text is a lack of adequate proofreading. A good example appears in the article on the teardrop sign, which states: "When the inferior wall of the eyelid is fractured, the contents of the eyelid penetrate the maxillary sinus through the fracture, shaped like tears." Quite clearly the author meant orbit when they wrote eyelid, but it does not engender confidence in the reader when such mistakes appear in the text. The text is littered with grammatical errors that many readers will find jarring. There are also instances of citation numbers not mapping to the correct references.

Factual errors are also present; for instance the authors mix up two similar-sounding but clearly different hepatic imaging signs, the 'straight line sign' and 'straight border sign.' Personally I think such errors are inexcusable in a scientific text of this kind. It is stated that the central dot sign of Caroli disease is pathognomonic: while it is highly specific it may be seen in other conditions, such as peribiliary cysts. And the fallen fragment sign is said to be only seen in bone cysts when it is well known to be rarely seen with other benign bone lesions, such as aneurysmal bone cysts.

In conclusion, the variety of imaging signs presented here is impressive, accompanied by some high quality images. Certainly as a practising radiologist, I found it a delight to dip into and refresh my knowledge on some classic radiological appearances. However, the book is seriously let down by a lack of proper proofreading, several imaging signs of rather dubious pedigree and clear factual errors.

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