BOOK REVIEWS


This text is a fitting sequel to the editor's well-received previous text, Nuclear Medicine In Vitro. In the present work, the editor has blended current critical reviews from 26 authorities with emphasis on the physiology behind and clinical applications of in vitro hormone assays and in vivo imaging procedures. The text is organ-oriented beginning with thyroid and adrenal and progressing through the rest of the endocrine organs. Chapters on thyroid and pancreas imaging are interspersed, and even parathyroid imaging is accorded some attention. Surprisingly, adrenal scanning is mentioned only in passing. A separate chapter is appropriately devoted to interacting hormones from different sources such as PTH, Calcitonin, and vitamin D, or the various gastrointestinal hormones. There are also concise chapters on the evolving work with prostaglandins, cyclic nucleotides, and vasoactive peptides.

As anticipated, this multi-author approach presents varying writing styles and generates several areas of repetition of previously presented information. For the most part, the repetition tends to serve as reinforcement rather than distraction to the reader. There are several errors that may be confusing to one not familiar with the field. For example, on p 27, 100 mCi instead of "Ci of I-131 are suggested as a scanning dose to evaluate the thyroid bed after total thyroidectomy for thyroid cancer. Also, on p 31, J. E. Rall's work on I-131-induced radiation pneumonitis has been mis-interpreted, and the author states that administered (instead of concentration in lung) doses of I-131 should be limited to 100 mCi.

This text should be useful to the internist interested in endocrinology, to any nuclear medicine specialist engaged in vitro work, and to the nuclear medicine in vitro technologist.

JOHN E. FREITAS, M.D.
William Beaumont Hospital
Royal Oak, Michigan

GALLIUM-67 IMAGING. P. B. Hoffer, C. Bekerman, R. E. Henkin.

In the preface to this book the editors state that their goal is to "bring together in one concise volume a book that will serve as a convenient primer and reference source on Ga-67 imaging." They have succeeded in meeting these objectives. This book is thorough, up-to-date, well-written, and well-illustrated. One of its strengths is the attention to fundamentals. In the first section Dr. Hoffer reviews mechanisms of Ga-67 localization and techniques for Ga-67 imaging. The imaging techniques chapter is especially good and may help resolve some differences of opinion that have existed in this area. It also contains some basic information about collimator selection and pulse height analyzer window settings, worthwhile knowledge for nuclear medicine trainees and practitioners. Attention to fundamentals continues as the reader is treated to chapters on normal patterns of Ga-67 localization and the anatomy and pathology of intra-abdominal abscesses. In their chapter on lymphomas, Turner et al. emphasize the basics of data analysis, reviewing Bayesian approaches to the predictive value of a test in a way that all readers should be able to understand. This chapter also includes numerous examples of Ga-67 imaging with the tomographic rectilinear scanner.