Venous sampling for the detection of sources of abnormal hormone secretion has become increasingly popular in interventional endocrinology. Its results, however, depend on whether the abnormal source produces its hormones continuously or intermittently. The authors present a review of percutaneous venous blood sampling techniques used in the diagnosis of female hyperandrogenemia, diseases of the adrenal cortex and adrenal medulla, pituitary tumors (only Cushing’s disease is discussed), tumors of the pancreas and the parathyroid, and renovascular hypertension. The potential readers of this book are primarily internists and, particularly, endocrinologists, whereas the interventional radiologist and the endocrine surgeon will profit less: the radiologist because details and variations of the catheterization technique and its difficulties as well as the radiographic variations and congenital vascular anomalies are not treated extensively enough; and the surgeons because none of them, due to further subspecialization, ever faces the entire field presented in this book. The assembly of the different topics, however, offers the reader interesting perspectives in neighboring fields. The concluding chapter concerning the clinical and laboratory evaluation of endocrine diseases is superfluous because most of its contents are presented in the topic-specific chapters. The book does not necessarily present most recent developments. A detailed review of the chapter concerning inferior petrosal sinus sampling shows that among 151 references there are only 4 published in 1989, only 1 in 1990 and 1 in 1991.

A.M. Landolt, Zurich

The series entitled Advances in Pineal Research continues with No. 6 which puts together the summaries of the papers which were presented at the International Symposium on Pineal Hormones, which took place in Australia in July 1991.

It reassembles very specialized communications on the multiplicity of fibers which innervate the pineal gland. These fibers are studied by several authors, using in particular electrophysiological methods, who describe the new findings concerning the intrinsic control of melatonin secretion and the effects of light as well as nonvisible wavelengths.

The main progress in the study of the pineal gland has taken place in the identification of binding sites of melatonin. Several research groups have brought to this symposium their findings on
several target organs, such as the retina, hypothalamic nuclei and pituitary gland. Finally, the
effect of melatonin on animal breeding, the development of wool in the sheep, or deer raising are
also presented.
This new volume of Advances in Pineal Research does bring summaries of recent findings on the
role of the pineal gland in animals and in the human. It is of major interest to all who are
working in the field of pinealogy.
P.C. Sizonenko, Geneva

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Erratum
In the article by Boucekkine et al. (Horm Res 1992;38:236-240), the lanes in figure 3d on page
238 should be labelled: 1, M, 4, F.