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Imaging in Endocrine Disorders

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Preface

The suspicion of an endocrine disorder is based on the patient’s history, clinical signs and the phenotypic appearance. However, the exact scientific diagnosis is then usually confirmed by laboratory hormonal measurements or imaging, and sometimes by both modalities. Both of these technologies have undergone revolutionary changes during the last decades. Direct depiction of anatomical and pathological structures has been possible since the introduction of computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanning.

‘Imaging’ is considered to be the depiction of structures or functions without the particular use of visible light. Metabolic imaging using radionucleotides, CT and MRI are in this context the main investigational tools used today.

In this multiauthor book, distinguished experts, who have published extensively in their fields, have contributed concise and well-illustrated chapters that cover imaging of all the organs that are involved in endocrine disorders. Metabolic and structured imaging of the thyroid and parathyroid glands, the pancreas, the adrenals, the gonads, the pituitary and sellar region, and neuroendocrine tumors and involved tissues are thoroughly covered. Both benign and malignant diseases are covered in detail. A specific asset of this book is the provision of readers with online-accessible videos of some dynamic diagnostic and therapeutic procedures.

This volume has been conceived to primarily address endocrinologists, who have to interpret the results of the examinations obtained by the various imaging techniques, radiologists and nuclear physicians, who should correlate images to the respective endocrinological background information. At the same time, it represents a valuable reference for internists and general practitioners to appropriately manage the essential diagnostic workup in patients with suspected endocrine disorders, before referring them to the specialist.

We are very grateful to the authors for their dedication, and to Professor Carlo Monti, Director of the Service of Radiology, Casa di Cura Madre Fortunata Toniolo, Bologna, Italy, for his precious support in the selection and labeling of radiological images and for expert manuscript revision. Our special thanks go to Miriam Schulz, Rebecca Ganz and Thomas Nold at Karger Publishers in Basel, Switzerland, for their generous support through all stages of the production of this book.

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