

# Preface

Rapid advances in ultrasound imaging have resulted not only from continual improvements in equipment and new technologies, but also from expanded diagnostic capabilities. Color Doppler sonography and ultrasound contrast agents, combined with advances in standardizing diagnostic criteria and defining guidelines, have led to dramatic progress in sonographic diagnosis.

For example, it is now possible to use contrast-enhancing agents in nearly all areas of ultrasonography, although the examiner's experience and equipment availability continue to limit these applications. For those who are still learning how to use ultrasound, however, it is first necessary to acquire a sound basic knowledge of this modality in order to take advantage of these new and expanded methods.

This book presents a comprehensive collection of B-mode scans, but also a quantity of color Doppler images, as well as several examples of the uses of contrast-enhanced sonography. For ease of use in different situations, it is divided into three parts (gray: Basic Principles, green: Ultrasound Investigation of Principal Signs and Symptoms, blue: Ultrasound of Specific Organs and Organ Systems).

The editor and two other authors (Prof. Dr. Ch. Görg, Prof. Dr. L. Greiner) are regular leaders of seminars run by the German Society for Ultrasound in Medicine (DEGUM) and co-authors of three German editions of a similar text, and of other books on sonography. Each of them has an area of interest and expertise in their daily experience and on courses on ultrasound from which the current imaging approaches have been developed.

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