

Foreword

(from the first edition)

There are many ways to learn about magnetic resonance imaging—reading large textbooks, small subspecialized textbooks (e.g., on neuro or knees), journal articles (e.g., *AJNR*, *Radiology*, *JMRI*, *Investigative Radiology*), and point-of-service information (e.g., StatDx); taking courses; and attending meetings. This book, *Essentials of Clinical MR*, has managed to compress the essential aspects of the field into a mere 200 pages or so—a tenth the size of multivolume textbooks like *Magnetic Resonance Imaging* by Stark and Bradley or *Clinical Magnetic Resonance Imaging* by Edelman, Hesselink, Zlatkin, and Crues. Val Runge, John Morelli, and their contributors have accomplished this compression by focusing on the practical clinical aspects of MR image interpretation with minimal physics, jokes, or references. In addition to being concise and pithy, the book is quite topical, featuring sections on newer MR contrast agents and MR angiography, with discussions of nephrogenic systemic fibrosis and contrast-free MRA. Where additional physics explanation is desired, the reader is referred to another of Dr. Runge’s excellent works, *The Physics of Clinical MR Taught Through Images* (Thieme).

Dr. Runge has been an MRI researcher and clinician for almost 30 years. He is one of the few people I know who could undertake what might be considered the “Cliffs Notes” or “Classics Illustrated” of MRI. This book has the most PPPPs (pearls per printed page) of any book I have read in years. I highly recommend it for physicians and technologists who desire to grasp the essentials of magnetic resonance imaging in a short period of time. By the same token, I recommend this book to radiology residents and to nonradiologists wanting a quick discussion of the utility of MRI and the MR findings in a particular disease state.

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