Maxillofacial Imaging. Edited by T. A. Larheim and P.-L. Westesson. Berlin, Heidelberg, New York: Springer-Verlag, 2006. ISBN 978-3-540-25423-2. 456 pages. 1450 illustrations. Price hardcover: EUR 213.95.

The authors, eight experienced collaborators from Canada, Japan, Norway, and the USA, are professors of maxillofacial radiology and radiology from the University of Oslo, Norway, and the University of Rochester, USA, respectively. The authors have built this book around images rather than an extensive text. The reason for this, according to the authors, is that most radiologists prefer to see the images and read the text only if necessary. With all images of the patient on one or two pages, the reader quickly gets an image overview of the specific condition. After a short introduction, each disease category is described with definitions, synonyms, and clinical and imaging features.

The diagnostic part of the book is well organized. The book is divided into 14 chapters, starting with a chapter on normal imaging anatomy of the maxillofacial structures. Chapters on advanced imaging of conditions of dental or non-dental etiology affecting the mandible and maxilla, temporomandibular joint, dental implants, maxillofacial trauma and fractures, deformities, and paranasal sinuses are valuable reading for both dentists and professionals in medicine. Salivary glands and structures adjacent to the maxillofacial region, i.e., the cervical spine, neck, skull base, and orbital lesions, deserve special attention due to differential diagnostic reasons.

The role of modern CT and MR imaging is the primary focus of this book. The spectrum of 3D CT images is representative. Experiences of diffusion-weighted imaging are presented four times in the diagnosis of mucocele, orbital abscess, and intracranial empyema and abscess. As a minor drawback, the role of ultrasound in the detection of salivary gland diseases has not been mentioned. The role of MR imaging instead of CT in the diagnosis of calcific tendinitis of longus colli muscles is not addressed, either.

At the end of the book, there is a short chapter on interventional maxillofacial radiology. Biopsies, preoperative embolization, and dilatation of parotid duct strictures are briefly presented. Embolization of nasopharyngeal angiofibroma and nasal bleeding are insufficiently described. Descriptions of embolization techniques, different embolic agents, danger collaterals, and complications are mostly missing. The main focus of this book is definitively diagnostic imaging.

The image quality of the clinical photographs, schematic drawings, and surgical, autopsy, and histological specimens is good to excellent in this book. Very new references are also included.

This book demonstrates how advanced medical imaging technology, primarily CT and MR, can be successfully applied to dental and maxillofacial conditions. The book is like an atlas, with condensed and bulleted text. However, this is a challenge because sometimes the reader may require more comprehensive data.

The overall impression of this book is very good. If you need a high-quality atlas of maxillofacial imaging with condensed text, buy this book!

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