
Clinical Atlas of Musculoskeletal Ultrasound in Rheumatology

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 Springer

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I would like to dedicate this book to my father, Juan, who taught by example the true meaning of integrity and hard work. I would also like to dedicate this atlas to my husband, Andres, and my children, Hans, Sienna, and André, for being considerate and understanding of the time I dedicated to the preparation of this book.

Preface

“Seeing is believing, but, findings are in the eye of the beholder.”

This is a combination of proverbial phrases that best describe the advantages and limitations of ultrasound use in clinical practice. Learning ultrasonography is a process that continuously evolves and requires intentional dedication. The excitement of seeing beyond what others can see may be momentarily intercepted by the realization that you may be more vulnerable to misinterpretation as you continue to scan. This clinical atlas is intended to conceptualize the virtues and intricacies involved in the use of the “rheumatologist’s stethoscope”: the ultrasound.

Ultrasonography has rightfully earned its place in the diagnosis and management of various rheumatic conditions. As a result, it has become an element that has been officially included in the classification criteria of rheumatoid arthritis, gout, polymyalgia rheumatica, and giant cell arteritis, among other conditions. Point-of-care ultrasound in rheumatology is the other facet of ultrasound that is the product of the evolution of a rheumatologist with the vision of a radiologist. Rheumatologists embarking in the practice of ultrasonography at the bedside will discover the instant gratification of refining patient care with objective real-time diagnosis and treatment of a number of rheumatic conditions. In addition, they will experience the bonding effect of the contact of the probe through the hands of their caregiver that provides unexplainable satisfaction to the patient.

My co-authors and I are excited to release this atlas of musculoskeletal ultrasonography that focuses on day-to-day applications of ultrasonography in rheumatology. It is our intention to instill our enthusiasm for ultrasound to the many learners whose curious minds also derive excitement from seeing beyond the standard physical exam and conventional radiography in real time. We have worked in concert to craft this clinical atlas with high-quality images, selected snapshots, illustrations, and diagrams that depict sonographic clinical pearls and pitfalls commonly encountered in daily rheumatology practice.

The introduction covers the fundamental concepts of ultrasonography necessary for proper acquisition and interpretation of ultrasound findings. The following chapters condense essential anatomy that is practical for the understanding of sonography of the area of interest and complement further with numerous examples of the ultrasound appearance of pathology. A comprehensive chapter reviewing updated evidence supporting indications and various techniques to perform common ultrasound-guided procedures is enhanced with cine clips that demonstrate the sonographic dynamics of guided procedures. This atlas also includes a novel case-based ultrasonography chapter that consists of a collection of cases that put into context the practical role of ultrasound in enhancing the diagnosis and management of care in a variety of case scenarios.

We hope you find this atlas enjoyable, and more importantly, we hope that this review facilitates your experience in navigating in the journey of performing point-of-care ultrasonography.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge the medical assistants, residents, fellows, my son Hans, and the many patients whose assistance and pictures are engraved in this atlas.

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