

Ultrasound for Interventional Pain Management: An Illustrated Procedural Guide

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Ultrasound for Interventional Pain Management: An Illustrated Procedural Guide is a first edition book containing 362 pages, 27 chapters, and 302 figures. The editors and authors are a mix of international pain experts. This comprehensive guide to the use of ultrasound for (chronic) pain procedures is flush with useful illustrations. The book begins with a lengthy and thorough chapter describing the principles and physics of ultrasonography. This chapter is simple enough for the novice but also includes an adequate amount of relevant information that even veteran ultrasound users will gain new information.

While there is some variability, generally each chapter begins with descriptions of the anatomy in question and then the pathophysiology and clinical presentation of patients with pain from those structures. The bulk of each chapter is then a precise description of how to use ultrasound to visualize the relevant structures and how to perform the appropriate procedure or procedures. Some chapters include descriptions of multiple methods. Each chapter also includes a list of the equipment needed for the procedure, clinical pearls, and suggested reading. The suggested readings that accompany the chapters are nice supplements. There is additionally, a "Literature Review" section, typically toward the end of the chapter. While the heading is somewhat confusing, these short sections provide additional relevant details of the conditions for which the procedures are used.

There is significant variability in the naming of chapters that is somewhat confusing and may benefit from changes. For example, Chapter 19 is titled "Shoulder," Chapter 20 is titled "Ultrasound-Guided Injections for Elbow Pain," and Chapter 21 is titled "Intervention on Wrist and Hand." All chapters could instead be labeled similarly such as with just their anatomical names (ie, Shoulder, Elbow, Wrist & Hand) or "Ultrasound-Guided Injections for XXXX Pain" or "Interventions on the XXXX."

While it is apparent that the book is intended for practitioners who provide care of patients with

chronic pain, this is not ever directly addressed. However, most chapters deal principally with descriptions of chronic pain conditions and ultrasound-guided procedures for their amelioration. Thus, the lengthy description of Chapter 11 of the erector spinae plane block is somewhat incongruous as it is not apparent what chronic pain conditions it would be used for.

As the authors note, there are several similar books already in existence. For example, the same publisher, Springer, also produces "Atlas of Ultrasound-Guided Procedures in Interventional Pain Management," now in its fifth edition (2011) and edited by Samer N. Narouze. It is not immediately clear how the 2 books are different; while perhaps the book by Dr Narouze has fewer figures, there is significant overlap of their subject matter when the contents of each book are compared.

It would be useful to the reader to know if the authors are suggesting that ultrasound should be replaced or be used as a complement to fluoroscopy, which is traditionally used for some of the described procedures, for example, spine and sacroiliac joint techniques. While the logic in the chapter order is not clear, the chapters as a whole do include the use of ultrasound for pain procedures over the entire body, head, neck, thorax, abdomen, pelvis, back, and limbs. While minor grammatical errors are apparent in some chapters, the descriptions of pain syndromes and the procedures for treatment are thorough, and the text is easy to follow. Although I wish some of the images included better descriptions, the figures provide a nice accompaniment to the text.

Some minor comments on suggestions for improvement include the following. Some of the descriptions are subjectively inaccurate. For example, Figures 1.35 and 1.36 on page 26 (and other figures later) include the labels "Incorrect" and "Correct," while the labels "Non-optimal" and "Optimal" are probably better descriptors. Although the figures nicely complement the text, some parts of the figure insets are additionally too small (ie, the ultrasound transducer position in Figures 2.5 and 2.6). Additional suggestions for improving subsequent editions include (1) cleaning up the chapters by standardizing the format of each chapter, including removing the "Literature Review" section and adding those details to the Introductions; and (2) organizing the chapters into sections based on anatomical areas (eg, A. Head & Neck, B. Limbs, C. Back & Thorax, D. Abdomen & Pelvis, and E. Miscellaneous [musculoskeletal, platelet-rich plasma, etc]).

In summary, this first edition book provides a detailed and thorough guide to the use of ultrasound

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for chronic pain procedures with many useful figures in each chapter. Future editions would benefit from improved editing and the reorganization of chapters into relevant anatomical groupings and consistent sections and subheadings.

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