



Nuevas técnicas en ecocardiografía

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Echocardiography has been installed as a fundamental diagnostic tool in the daily practice of clinical cardiologist and the increasing incorporation of new technological advances applied to the method, encourages us and it demands that we should be alert and permeable to the appearance of these new concepts. Those who daily sit with the patient and try to collect by ultrasonographic image the largest and most possible reliable information for decision-making, just like those colleagues who are the target groups of the results of this analysis, we have seen with satisfaction the incessant progress in the incorporation, development and improvement of new techniques applied to echocardiography. These successive and sophisticated technological advances of which we are witnessing, require an extra effort in their understanding and proper application for the benefit of our patients.

In this way, the book of recent publication 'New techniques in echocardiography' by Tomás Cianciulli, Horacio Prezioso, Jorge Lax and et al, Journal Editions, is presented as a very interesting alternative to approach the learning of this so complex subject matter. In its 301 pages, divided into 16 chapters well structured, the book devotes its first four chapters to the pleasant and detailed explanation of the different technical procedures that will later be incorporated into the context of diverse clinical scenarios. This occurs with the addition of excellent illustrative images, which facilitate the understanding of complex innovations that are subject of the work, and selected bibliographic references. Specifically, the first three chapters deal with clear concepts and accurate graphics examples, techniques that quantify the speed and the deformation of the heart muscle and allow a better estimate of ventricular function. The fourth chapter allows us to join to the exciting field of three-dimensional echocardiography, from its inception to current development, with emphasis on the growing incorporation into routine cardiac analysis, mainly in the assessment of ventricular function in cardiomyopathy, valvular disease, as well as guidelines of interventional procedures.

Hereafter, along with a group of expert assistants, the authors venture us into the application of new echocardiographic techniques in different clinical common scenarios of cardiological practice, always with

the important contribution of additional explanatory images as examples. Thus, the text is approaching in an orderly way a full spectrum of cardiovascular diseases, for later on to close this development with applications in cardiological cases such as myocarditis, heart transplant, the condition for chemotherapy and systemic diseases that have impact on heart muscle.

Beyond the large number of images of examples that illustrate each chapter, the authors have expanded their generous contribution to our learning with a series of 41 video clips with high educational value, even reported by the own authors. With them, we can thus add to the text and to the static image, the dynamic example.

This makes that the work is complete in all aspects that one may require, from the explanatory, pleasant, and quick understanding text, with images that depict what is explained, tables summarizing the echocardiographic variables, which are useful, necessary and easy to incorporate, to practical example through videos of the different clinical applications, as well as basic explanation, with the added of dynamic image, which is so necessary when we try to approach the difficult task of trying to make simpler something so complex as are the techniques of last generation in echocardiography.

Carrying out this painstaking work, it must have been hard and at the same time a great challenge. As the authors themselves refer in their preface, 'the understanding of these developments are linked to the risk of writing about the new and still evolving, with the future implications of what is written'. Indeed, this aspect is not less, since to face the challenge of developing writing techniques may be unsettling but it guarantees to those who enjoy their work, the need for continuity in their editions to accompany successive technological advances. The way they have faced and the work they have done without doubt reflects the ability, experience and expertise in the subject that the authors have demonstrated in their years of teaching compromise developed in their course of Echocardiography and now it is materialized in this text of great educational value for anyone interested in learning from basics and to deepen in the knowledge of new techniques in echocardiography.

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