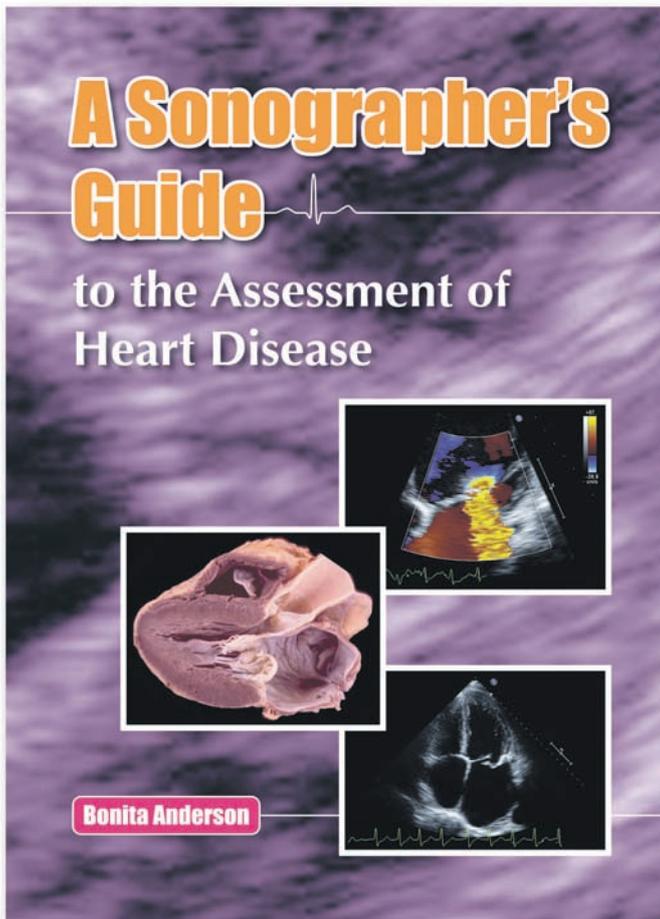


BOOK REVIEW



A Sonographers Guide to the Assessment of Heart Disease

Book Review by Julie Sandoval, Sheffield Teaching Hospital
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Author – Bonita Anderson

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Bonita Anderson's first text book 'Echocardiography: The Normal Examination and Echocardiographic measurements' remains highly sort after. I am sure the same will be true of 'A Sonographers guide to the Assessment of Heart disease' in which she sets out to provide a comprehensive review of transthoracic echocardiography in the assessment of various cardiac diseases, an endeavour in which, I believe she succeeds.

The book is aimed at sonographers, students and educators and would be an invaluable resource in any echo lab. The extremely well illustrated text book, some 500 pages long, is difficult to put down. It is organised into 15 chapters, the first chapter covers basic haemodynamic calculations. Chapters 2 and 3 attend to ventricular size and function, including diastolic function of both ventricles. The remaining chapters correspond to various disease states of the heart.

I was rather disappointed with the chapter on Cardiomyopathies, and the lack of PSSAX echo images for HCM. The presentation of DCM was addressed more fully within its clinical context,

whereas, HCM/HOCM was presented as it often is in texts books with the emphasis on the obstructive and apical variants, but these yield such interesting images. Having said that, the diagrams and text description of various types of HCM, were extensive.

The book was particularly good at relating echo techniques and images with diagrams and pathological specimens. In fact the pathological specimens were sublime and fully complimented the good quality echo images. Current controversies, such as when and where to measure the aorta are addressed pragmatically. There are technical tips throughout and as well as very full descriptions of how to do calculations such as effective regurgitant orifice area and regurgitant volume; there are also full descriptions of any pitfalls or explanations of why a technique should not be used.

I found the chapter on systemic disease was particularly interesting and helpful, although in the copy I have been asked to review several pages were missing at the end of this chapter and the beginning of the following chapter 'introduction to congenital heart disease'.

The echo images provide an excellent image bank and teaching tool and this is the strength of this text book. By her own admission Bonita has avoided advanced techniques (although the use of stress echo is well integrated) this also is a strength and refreshing to see good quality every day echocardiography promoted in its usefulness in a clinical context.

Excellent book; valuable resource – 4.5 Stars

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