

### Clinical Echocardiography

Edited by Luis Rodríguez Padial. Madrid: Grupo Aula Médica, 2002; 331 pgs., 421 figures and 64 tables. ISBN 84-7885-294-8.

I read the book *Clinical Echocardiography*, edited by Dr. Rodríguez Padial, with great pleasure. It is a valuable compendium for those who used echocardiography in daily practice, with many advantages that are described below:

1. The book is magnificently illustrated. Computerized images clearly and precisely accompany the text. In several sections there are diagrams that help describe the echocardiographic examples.

2. In the «Appendix» various algorithms of clinical situations are described in which echocardiography is used in the decision-making process. This section is both useful and instructive, as it serves as a practical reference for those who use echocardiography in the clinical decision-making process. This section is original and is rarely included in textbooks with similar characteristics.

3. The description and illustrations of echocardiography anatomy, as well as transesophageal echocardiography, are excellent.

4. The examples of tissue Doppler and contrast echocardiography are clear and clearly relevant.

5. The section in which hemodynamic evaluation in echocardiography is described is well organized. Of particular interest are the illustrations that describe the calculation of proximal convergence flow. Throughout the book it is easy to find the formulas needed to complete hemodynamic evaluation.

6. The new echocardiographic imaging techniques (tissue Doppler, contrast echocardiography, and stress echocardiography) are well described and documented, although there was not a section on 3D-echocardiography.

This book, which act like a clinical consultation manual should be, in short, on hand in all clinical echocardiography laboratories. Its organization enormously facilitates access to information, via the inclusion of clinical examples, reference citations, and hemodynamic formulas. The editor and authors must be congratulated for this important contribution to medical reference books.

**Roberto M. Lang and R. Parker Ward**

University of Chicago Medical Center. Chicago, IL. USA.