Preface

Over the last two decades, renal and liver transplantation have become an almost routine aspect of medicine, allowing the replacement of an organ to be part of the treatment option for a number of previously fatal diseases. This has come about through advances in immunosuppressive therapy, better surgical techniques, improved medical and nursing care, and technical advances associated with anesthetic equipment. In this overall scene of advancement, imaging has allowed assessment of disease processes that were but a figment of the imagination 20 years ago. However, it has not been due (as perceived mainly by nonradiologists) to advances in CT and MRI. Rather, ultrasound has led the way, particularly color Doppler ultrasound. Ultrasound, especially in the postoperative period, allows complications to be detected early, often at the bedside, directing further imaging or altering medical management. Ultrasound is nearly always the preliminary investigation prior to radiological intervention and is often used to direct the interventional procedure itself, bypassing the need for CT and MRI.

To this effect, we have compiled a textbook that specifically deals with the role of ultrasound in imaging of abdominal transplantation. We have included chapters on intervention in liver and renal transplantation, as an ultrasound examination invariably leads directly to intervention, often by the same radiologist. It is important that the radiologist has an overview of transplantation and works as a "team member" with physicians, surgeons, and nursing staff. To this end, we have included an overview of the medical work-up to transplantation, medical diseases that result in the need for transplantation, and the surgical technique itself. An understanding of the surgical technique is of paramount importance to a successful ultrasound examination. We have also included chapters on pancreatic and small bowel transplantation, currently in its infancy but likely to become more important in the future.

Our aim was to produce a textbook with high-quality images that allows the practicing radiologist, sonographer, or physician insight into techniques of transplant ultrasound and that gives, as well, an overview of medical and surgical management of transplantation.

Paul S. Sidhu and Grant M. Baxter

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Contributors

Syed Babar, D.M.R.D., F.R.C.R.
Specialist Radiology Registrar
Department of Radiology
Royal Free Hospital
London, United Kingdom

Richard C. Beese, B.Sc., M.B.B.S., M.R.C.P., F.R.C.R.
Consultant Radiologist
Department of Radiology
Kings College Hospital
Denmark Hill
London, United Kingdom

Matthew Bowles, M.S., F.R.C.S. (Gen)
Consultant Transplant Surgeon
Institute of Liver Studies
Kings College Hospital
Denmark Hill
London, United Kingdom

Richard Edwards, M.R.C.P., F.R.C.R.
Consultant Interventional Radiologist
Gartnavel General Hospital
Glasgow, United Kingdom

David Hamilton, Ph.D., F.R.C.S.
Consultant Surgeon
Transplant Unit
Western Infirmary
Glasgow, United Kingdom

Bryon C. Jaques, F.R.C.S., Ph.D.
Consultant Transplant and Hepatobiliary Surgeon
Freeman Hospital
Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom

Rahul M. Jindal, M.D., F.R.C.S., M.Sc.
Director of Transplantation
Department of Surgery
University of Glasgow
Glasgow, United Kingdom

Ajai Khanna, M.D., Ph.D., F.R.C.S. (Eng. & Glasg.)
Director Pediatric Abdominal Transplantation
and Transplantation Research
Department of Surgery
University of California San Diego
and Childrens Hospital and Health Center of San Diego
San Diego, California, USA

Heather Maxwell, M.D.
Consultant Paediatric Nephrologist
Renal Day Unit
Royal Hospital for Sick Children
Yorkhill NHS Trust
Yorkhill
Glasgow, United Kingdom

Jon G. Moss, F.R.C.S., F.R.C.R.
Consultant Interventional Radiologist
Gartnavel General Hospital
Glasgow, United Kingdom

Suzanne Norris, M.R.C.P.I., Ph.D.
Consultant Hepatologist
Institute of Liver Studies
Kings College Hospital
Denmark Hill
London, United Kingdom

N.H. Patel, M.D.
Associate Professor of Radiology
Department of Radiology
Indiana University
Indianapolis, Indiana, USA

Mohamed Rela, M.S., F.R.C.S.
Consultant Transplant Surgeon
Institute of Liver Studies
Kings College Hospital
Denmark Hill
London, United Kingdom

R. Stuart C. Rodger, M.B.Ch.B., F.R.C.P.
Consultant Physician/Honorary Clinical
Senior Lecturer
Renal Unit
Western Infirmary
Glasgow, United Kingdom

Suzanne M. Ryan,
M.B.B.Ch.B.A.O., M.R.C.P.I., F.R.C.R.
Specialist Radiology Registrar
Department of Radiology
Kings College Hospital
Denmark Hill
London, United Kingdom

Ashley Shaw, M.B.Ch.B., M.R.C.P.
Specialist Radiology Registrar
Department of Radiology
Kings College Hospital
Denmark Hill, London
United Kingdom

Z. Song, M.D.
Research Assistant
Department of Surgery
University of Glasgow
Glasgow, United Kingdom

Jonathan Tibballs, M.R.C.P., F.R.C.R., F.R.A.N.Z.C.R.
Consultant Radiologist
Department of Radiology
Royal Free Hospital
London, United Kingdom