
The recent development of interventional magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) was instigated by the availability of new techniques and instruments in interventional radiology as well as by the advent of MRI itself.

This book is an update summary of the expertise of 50 European and American authors from 18 different institutions. The book is divided in 10 chapters in which technical problems (configuration of available systems, patient monitoring and safety issues in the MR environment), diagnostic interventions and clinical applications are dealt with exhaustively.

Different MR-guided interventions are also extensively discussed, such as biopsies (bone, brain, breast, cerebral tissues, head and neck), neurosurgical interventions, interstitial therapies (liver, prostate, breast lesions) and angiography with intravascular interventions. In the chapters devoted to clinical applications the instruments and materials used are shown together with an explanation of the technique, after which indications for interventions and related results are critically discussed.

Overall, it appears that the advantages of MR (multiplanar or real time imaging, lack of ionising radiation dangerous for patients and health personnel) are still counterbalanced by technical difficulties and logistical problems due to the size and cost of the instruments and equipment. The high cost of the procedures and the health personnel, the most relevant problems in daily practice, could interfere with further development of MRI; this issue, as well as that of the cost effectiveness of this technology would probably have been of great interest and utility for readers.

This book is highly recommended to those who would like to practise interventional MRI as well as to those who are interested in gaining more theoretical information about its great potential.

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