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Book Review

The EACVI Echo Handbook

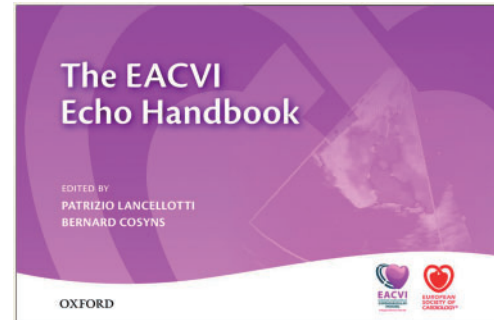
Editors: Patrizio Lancellotti and Bernard Cosyns

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Paperback: 588 pages, with more than 635 figures and charts

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The EACVI Echo Handbook is a publication of the European Association of Cardiovascular Imaging (EACVI), edited by Patrizio Lancellotti and Bernard Cosyns, with the support of 35 renowned contributors in the field of echocardiography and cardiovascular imaging. According to the authors, the book intends to present in a rapid and portable fashion, all information necessary to perform echocardiography and formulate diagnosis in complex clinical settings involving echocardiography. This targets 'in-training' or senior imagers and clinicians at the patient's bedside, as well as sonographers. This ambitious goal is served by the book's format, presentation, content, organization, and presentation.

The book has a soft cover, a size of 19.6 × 12.7 cm, a favourite among paperbacks although with a landscape orientation and is 2.8 cm thick. The result is an easy to carry pocket book however, requiring both hands for reading stability. The content is both comprehensive and up-to-date. One of the major strengths of the book is that it is linked to the EACVI recommendations and the EACVI core curriculum. It thus provides normal value ranges for important measurements in echocardiography. When necessary, the most recent international recommendations involving echocardiography for disease diagnosis and patient management are mentioned. Virtually all imaging scenarios figuring specific or unspecific echocardiography findings are described.

The general content organization involves 17 chapters, with the first five devoted to the principles of imaging and techniques of image acquisition, including chapters on systolic and diastolic function assessment and more importantly, covering recent techniques such as three-dimensional, speckle tracking and contrast echocardiography. The authors' choice to dedicate almost one third of the book (more in terms of page numbers) to provide all necessary tips for image acquisition and interpretation is delightful for imagers who, in general, hold in high esteem the knowledge of the technical parameters altering image quality. The level of detail provided for this technical part goes down to the examination storage and reporting. Chapters 11 and 12 are dedicated to cardiac transplant and acutely ill patients, then, the remaining 10

chapters describe cardiovascular diseases by groups in a quite classical manner. Within these chapters, and subchapters, the role and limitations of echocardiography are stressed in a useful fashion. Despite the sum of information provided, the book is written in a concise and effective style, without sacrificing literary quality. Interestingly, the most relevant information is further summarized and highlighted from the background text by using boxes providing useful tips, implications for care, recommendations, or synthetic summaries. Finally, all chapters include major references for expanding, if necessary, the reader's knowledge.

The layout and colours make the book nice to look at and to read. The illustrations are generous (>635 figures and graphs within the 588 pages). In general, anatomy-based diagnosis textbooks need pathologic correlations. Here, the authors have managed the feat of transforming a weakness—that is the limited use of pathologic specimen—into strength, by using instead, nice drawings where appropriate. The only concern about the illustrations is that despite the landscape orientation of the book (presumably intended to save space), some illustrations remain in limited space. Nevertheless, this textbook is resolutely modern, available as an e-book fitting well into smartphones/tablets. These versions make the book much more portable and enable magnification of the smallest figures, as needed, to compensate for their reduced size compared to the print version.

In summary, the textbook and its e-version are an excellent value for the price. The complete and thorough explanations of all concepts that are related to echocardiography technique and clinical usefulness make the book the ideal companion for sonographers, in-training and senior cardiologists performing or interpreting echocardiography.



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