Book Review

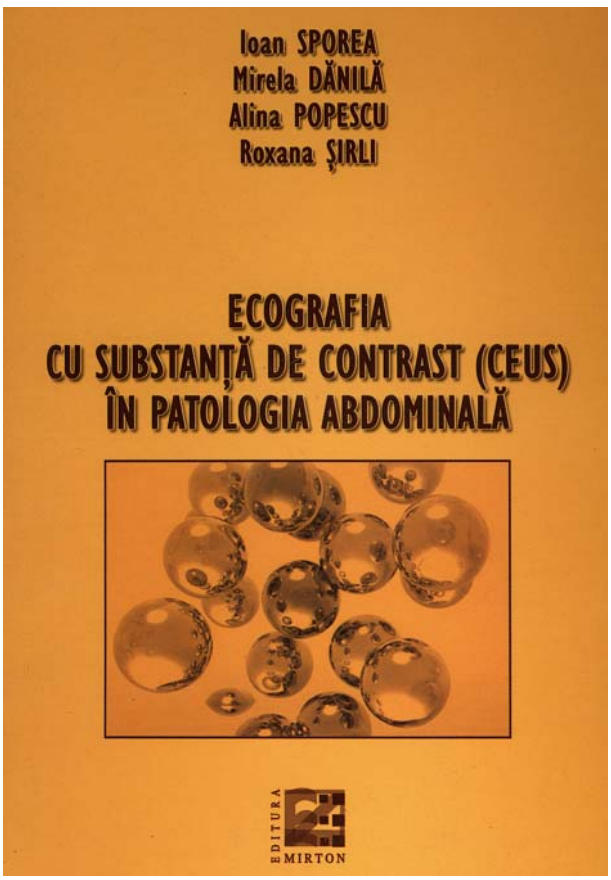
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Ecografia cu substanță de contrast (CEUS) în patologia abdominală

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Editura Mirton, Timişoara, Colecţia Medicală, ISBN 978-973-52-0612-3

The volume "Contrast enhanced ultrasound (CEUS) in abdominal pathology" recently published by the medical team from Timişoara (Prof. Dr. Ioan Sporea, Dr. Mirela Dănilă, Dr. Alina Popescu and Dr. Roxana Şirli) deals with a very new and important aspect of ultrasonography in daily practice. Even if transabdominal ultrasonography is an easily available, non-expensive, reproducible method of evaluation, until recently it was hampered by the fact that it was not accurate enough to differentiate focal lesions, due to the fact that, unlike for CT or MRI, contrast agents for sequential evaluation according to vascular times were not available. The use of ultrasound contrast agents solved that problem, CEUS also having the great advantage of being a real-time imaging technique, just like the standard ultrasound, much less expensive than CT or MRI.





After the introduction, the second chapter presents a brief history of the use of ultrasound contrast agents. The safety features, the examination technique and the physical principles of ultrasound contrast agents are also described. The third chapter presents the EFSUMB guidelines for the use of ultrasound contrast agents.

The fourth chapter, the longest one, deals with the use of CEUS in focal liver lesions evaluation. The examination technique, the diagnosis criteria for benign lesions (haemangioma, focal nodular hyperplasia, adenoma, liver abscess, liver hematoma and focal steatosis) as well as malignant lesions (hepatocellular carcinoma and metastases) are presented.

In the following chapters the main indications and the diagnosis CEUS criteria for various diseases of the pancreas, kidneys, spleen and lymph nodes are tackled, as well as the role of CEUS in the evaluation of Crohn's Disease in blunt abdominal trauma.

The final chapter deals with a very new application of CEUS: Dynamic contrast enhanced ultrasound (DCE-US), used for the evaluation and follow-up of tumor vasculature following chemotherapy as a method of treatment efficacy assessment.

The volume is easy to read, presents recent published data regarding the use of CEUS and also has more than 120 original photos to illustrate CEUS findings in various diseases.

I warmly recommend this book which I consider valuable material for medical doctors in all specialties.

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