
COMMON
PROBLEMS
— IN —
GASTROINTESTINAL
RADIOLOGY



WILLIAM M. THOMPSON

COMMON PROBLEMS

in Gastrointestinal Radiology

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This work is dedicated to my parents, Dr. and Mrs. Charles M. Thompson, my wife Judy, and my two boys, Christopher and Thayer. All of you have contributed more than you know.

"In Medicine we have Diagnosis, which is a matter of faith, Prognosis, which is a question of hope, and Treatment, which is only too often an affair of charity, but the greatest of these is Diagnosis. For without accurate diagnosis it is impossible to forecast the course and outcome of a disease or to treat it satisfactorily."

Sir Robert Hutchison

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FOREWORD

When Dr. Thompson first discussed the idea of a problem-oriented format for his book on gastrointestinal radiology I was frankly skeptical. It seemed unlikely that he would be able to define a sufficient number of reasonably common and concise specific imaging problems to really provide a worthwhile and comprehensive textbook. Having now seen the completed galley proofs I am very pleasantly surprised. I am, in fact, truly enthusiastic. I am proud to have contributed to several chapters. It should not have surprised me that he would choose a problem-oriented format for this book because Bill's forte as a clinical radiologist is his ability to recognize and cut through clinical problems expeditiously.

In picking contributors for the various chapters Dr. Thompson has chosen experts who approach specific problems as they would in everyday practice. The various imaging modalities are integrated logically. I believe this is a textbook that should be useful to the practicing radiologist when confronted

with one of the specific problems addressed in the book. I also believe that the coverage is sufficiently comprehensive to serve as a basic textbook for a resident in training. Most of the chapters provide detailed differential diagnostic lists but also tell the reader how to take the "differential" out of the diagnostic problem. It is a readable text with logical sections, short pertinent chapters, excellent illustrations, and a comprehensive bibliography for each chapter. I am genuinely flattered to have been asked to write the foreword for this book which is a significant addition to the radiologic literature.

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PREFACE

When I was first approached by Year Book to edit a problem-oriented textbook on gastrointestinal radiology, my first response was "no." However, through the persistence of Year Book Editor Jim Ryan, I was eventually convinced. Now that it is done I am delighted, but during the writing, while harassing my contributors and proofreading, I had my doubts that I had started something worthwhile.

The text contains 73 chapters arranged into 7 sections beginning with plain films of the abdomen (one of my favorites) and concluding with interventional radiology. Each chapter begins with a case presentation and a few questions. Some of the diagnoses are quite simple, with the main value of the chapter being the discussion. In other chapters the diagnosis is more elusive and the answer not revealed until the last paragraph. I anticipate these chapters will not only hold the readers' interest but will also be fun to read. While each chapter was edited, I purposely tried not to detract from the author's individual teaching style. The book is aimed principally at the resident, especially those studying for boards, and the private practitioner who has encountered a specific problem in his or her daily practice. While not every problem encountered in gastrointestinal radiology is included and not all the problems covered are common in every radiology practice, an attempt was made to focus on the more

common diagnoses, differentials, and problems. The 72 co-authors made wonderful contributions to this text. They helped me accomplish my goal to provide a fun-to-read but educational treatise on gastrointestinal radiology.

With every project there are always a number of invaluable individuals who serve as an inspiration and others who keep the process moving. The readers should know that Reed Rice was my teacher, mentor, and eventual colleague. Hopefully, Reed's wonderful teaching style is clearly expressed throughout the book. I would like to acknowledge Joan Wallace, my good friend who edited each chapter, Audrey Chan for retyping each edited chapter, and my two wonderful secretaries, Linda Meyer and Judy Thompson (no relation) for their help in organizing and putting the final touches on each portion of the project. The Medical Media Service at the University provided excellent illustrations for all of the University of Minnesota authors. Finally, I want to thank my 72 co-authors whose expertise made the book much better than I ever could have done alone.

I hope you enjoy reading the book as much as I enjoyed writing and editing it.

WILLIAM M. THOMPSON, M.D.

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