

**Imaging of the Pancreas – Cystic and Rare Tumors.** Ed. by C. Procacci, A.J. Megibow. Pp. 10 + 302. 255 figs. Hardcover. EUR 139.95. Heidelberg: Springer, 2003. ISBN 3-540-42742-2.

This is definitely not a book for the faint-hearted or casual reader.

As the title implies it covers a very specific topic, and it does so with remarkable depth and detail. This is an extensively researched academic text – to be used as a reference aid. The book is of interest to three main groups, viz. pathologists, radiologists and surgeons, more specifically to those within these groups with a particular interest in pancreatic pathology.

The pathology is extensively described, in addition to being well illustrated by many colour reproductions of the macro- and microscopic appearances.

The imaging details are clear and precise, with thorough and comprehensive descriptions of the CT and MRI findings.

However I found the division of chapters a bit disruptive. Instead of dealing with all aspects of a specific tumour at one time as would be my preference, varying aspects of the same tumour are described in separate chapters, e.g. the imaging characteristics of hyperfunctioning tumours are described in chapter 11, their pathology in chapter 10 and their clinical manifestations and therapeutic management in chapter 8.

I would have preferred to divide according to tumour types, enabling one to cover all aspects of a single tumour at one time in the same chapter.

A second hiccup for me was the extensive referencing within the text. Although an acceptable referencing method, I found it to be clumsy and disruptive to the flow of the text. I would have preferred a numbered referencing system.

To the reader not familiar with them, the use of abbreviations also complicates comprehension. I found myself constantly having to refer back to remind myself of their meaning.

Diagrams 11.8 and 11.9 and likewise diagrams 14.2 and 14.3 have their explanations reversed.

In conclusion, a very thorough, comprehensive and up-to-date text on these pancreatic tumours.

**J. Smilg**