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Seminars in
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Letter From the Editor

The current issue of *Seminars in Ultrasound CT and MRI,* devoted to imaging of the pancreas, covers a wide range of topics with an emphasis on pancreatic neoplasms.

The first chapter comprehensively reviews the diagnosis and staging of pancreatic cancer. Pancreatic cancer incidence is increasing nationally. Imaging studies play a crucial role in tumor staging and in identifying patients who are likely to benefit from surgery, the only curative treatment. Dr Zins et al from the Radiology Department, Groupe Hospitalier Paris Saint Joseph in France, describe the role of CT in assessing locoregional spread, and the supplementary role of diffusion-weighted MRI in detecting remote metastatic dissemination.

Neuroendocrine tumors—typically insulinomas or gastrinomas—are classified as functional or nonfunctional and as benign or malignant. In their collaborative review, Drs Singh, Hines, and Friedman review the pathologic and radiologic features of pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors as well as imaging mimics and their distinguishing features. A beautiful collection of figures exhibits the versatility of pertinent imaging findings of these tumors on ultrasound, CT, MRI and PET/CT.

In addition to adenocarcinoma and neuroendocrine tumors, the pancreas can be host to a wide array of rare tumors. The subsequent pictorial review focuses on these more unusual solid tumors of the exocrine pancreas. Dr Vilgrain and her associates Dr Dioguardi Burgio, and Dr Ronot from Paris provide an exquisite collection of figures to help differentiate these unusual types from the more common pancreatic adenocarcinoma and neuroendocrine tumors. They emphasize important clues that help to distinguish among them.

The role of CT and MRI has been described in detail in the first 3 reviews. The subsequent article focuses on the emerging role of PET/CT in the imaging of pancreatic neoplasms. Drs Iagaru, Duan, and Baratto from the Division of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging at Stanford University share their extensive experience in applying PET/CT in the critical evaluation of patients with neuroendocrine tumors and its rather controversial role in imaging pancreatic adenocarcinomas. The authors also discuss the emerging role of PET/MR in this field.

Another modality that is being investigated to assess the pancreas is dual-energy CT (DECT). Drs Patel, Mastrodicasa, and Delli Pizzi open their article by describing technical aspects of DECT imaging along with basic physiological principles. They subsequently review the various applications of this modality to pancreatic imaging, including oncologic and nononcologic uses. They emphasize the increased lesion conspicuity and improved tissue characterization conferred by DECT postprocessing tools. Finally, the authors describe future opportunities for clinical application.

The issue closes with a special bonus indirectly related to the pancreas: a review that describes the mesentery as an organ in its own right. A group of Brazilian physicians spearheaded by Dr Torres, a frequent contributor to *Seminars*, describe contemporary, anatomical concepts of the mesenteric organ and provide a beautiful imaging-based review of its disease processes. Their mesentery-centric approach categorizes diseases as primarily arising within the mesentery or secondarily progressing to involve the mesentery. This distinction has critical implications for the diagnosis, treatment, and surveillance of these conditions.

I would like to thank all of the authors—each a widely recognized expert in pancreatic imaging—for sharing their knowledge and expertise in these outstanding reviews. I trust these reviews will be useful and valuable references in daily practice for radiologists worldwide.

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