



Alan F. Weissman (Ed). Top Score for the Radiology Boards. Q&A for the Core and Certifying Exams

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Luigi Mansi¹

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The title of the book clearly individuates its substance and content: a large series of questions and answers concerning all the issues included in the exams for acquiring the American Radiology Board and similar, worldwide. This is a voluminous text of 735 large pages, enriched by 924 images plus an e-content, including videos and a special non-interpretive skills section, available online at <http://mediacenter.thieme.com/>.

The publication is edited by Alan F. Weissman, Senior Staff Diagnostic Radiologist at the Desert Radiology of Las Vegas, who has recognized the critical assistance of Twila Bartel and Tracey Yarborough. The authors are a large group of American experts in the field. The book is divided into 14 sections on imaging concerning (1) breast, (2) heart, (3) diagnostic radiology, (4) gastrointestinal, (5) genitourinary, (6) interventional, (7) musculoskeletal, (8) neuroradiology, (9) nuclear medicine, (10) paediatrics, (11) thoracic, (12) ultrasounds/reproductive/endocrinology, and (13) vascular. The 14th is dedicated to physics safety, while the 15th to the artefacts in imaging. Finally, the 16th regards general radiology imaging and the last includes non-interpretive skills available online.

The didactic structure is based on the sequence of: (a) essential cases, (b) details cases, (c) image rich cases, and (d) more challenging cases, organized on the basis of difficulties and of the number of images describing the single patient. Each of all the test cases, including either simple and more complex situations, are reported on two adjacent pages, the

left showing images and questions, with answers and explanations on the right side. On this second page, other possible choices and discussion, suggested readings and top tips are also included.

The didactic value of the book is very high. In my opinion, it includes and explains a very extensive series of clinical cases which may be representatives of the large majority of those that may be included in the examination. Clearly no book may contain all the knowledge needed to take the test. Nevertheless, the didactic organization, based on a methodological approach more than on notions, may be helpful in organizing a reasoning also useful to answer unexpected questions. The content of the book is very effective in preparing the examination for the Radiology board, but less extensive in the case of a specific preparation on nuclear medicine, as it happens in many countries that the specialty of nuclear medicine is still autonomous.

On the basis of these observations I suggest this publication at first to all the students interested in becoming a radiologist and/or a diagnostic imager. Furthermore, the book may be helpful for residents and professionals in diagnostic imaging who want to test and/or improve their preparation. Clearly, as for all the books organized as questions and answers, this publication has to be associated with specific texts more widely describing each of the single issues.

✉ Luigi Mansi
mansi.luigi@libero.it

¹ Interuniversity Research Center for Sustainability (CIRPS),
Naples, Italy