Preface

The Breadth and Depth of Imaging of the Endocrine System

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Editor

In 1932, Harvey Cushing made landmark discoveries regarding the details of the neuroendocrine system, but there was a notable absence of imaging at that time. However, imaging now serves as a cornerstone for guidance of both diagnosis and therapy of endocrine disease. The endocrine system plays an important role in human development, and imaging is a key component in the evaluation when the system does not work correctly. Whether there is overproduction, deficiency, or development of malignancy, a variety of techniques can help the physician make the proper diagnosis, and there have been substantial improvements in the imaging armamentarium. For functional and structural changes, molecular imaging, CT, MR imaging, and ultrasound can each provide beneficial information. Detection of vascular flow has greatly improved, especially with contrast-enhanced CT and Doppler ultrasound. Our ability to detect lesions at nearly a cellular level can help with early diagnosis of neuroendocrine cancers. Considering the rapidly changing research in neuroendocrine diseases, it is hoped this update will provide insight for physicians on the myriad of applications for imaging in the field of endocrinology. We hope the readers enjoy the coverage of the topics as much as we enjoyed providing it.

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