

Preface



Stefania Romano, MD
Guest Editor

In the last few years, emergency radiology has gained a prominent role in the management of acute patients thanks to the modern and advanced imaging technologies that help radiologists to correctly interpret examination findings, giving important support to the referring clinicians and surgeons for a prompt and appropriate therapy. The acute abdomen represents one of the most common nontraumatic body emergencies. Intestinal ischemia is a condition that requires extreme attention because potentially lethal complications from infarction can be avoided if a prompt and appropriate diagnosis is effected.

In 2000, my mentor gave me the task of preparing a paper on intestinal infarctions of the small bowel for the final examination of my residency program. Reading the bibliographic material he had collected and becoming aware of the many obscure points under his guidance, I began to develop a “feeling” for vascular disease affecting the intestine that has grown since then. In 2001 when I entered radiology practice at my institution, which is one of the largest emergency hospitals in Italy, I had the chance to further my interest in diagnostic imaging of the intestine, especially regarding acute conditions.

The articles in this issue of *Radiologic Clinics of North America* on the Diagnostic Imaging of

Intestinal Ischemia and Infarction are reviews written by authors personally and deeply involved in this area. The imaging findings of intestinal ischemia and disease progression to infarction are discussed for the small and large bowel, considering the arterial and venous etiology. There are also contributions on differential diagnosis and on conditions related to ischemia from bowel obstruction. In addition to imaging, reviews on etiology, pathogenesis, and clinical symptoms are included.

I am grateful to all of the outstanding contributors for their work and to Barton Dudlick for his assistance. It was a great privilege and honor to be Guest Editor for this issue of *Radiologic Clinics of North America*. I hope that you enjoy the content.

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