



ELSEVIER
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Preface



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Guest Editor

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MR imaging plays an increasing large role in the diagnosis and management of gynecologic conditions. It is certain that MR provides *in vivo* imaging of the female pelvis with a resolution and tissue contrast impossible to achieve by any other modality, and this has led in many cases to new understanding of anatomy and physiology. Despite its obvious advantages for evaluation of female pelvic disease, MR imaging remains a surprisingly underutilized tool in many centers.

In this issue, current MR techniques are described, and imaging appearances of benign and malignant gynecologic conditions are reviewed. Many common uterine and adnexal disease processes are illustrated along with less common disorders that are well demonstrated by MR imaging, such as those encountered during pregnancy and the postpartum period. A unique diagnostic challenge

is the pregnant patient who has acute abdominal pain, and the use of MR imaging in these patients is reviewed in a separate article in this issue. In recent years, fast imaging techniques have expanded the role of female pelvic MR to include evaluation of the pelvic floor and fetus. Novel work using MR imaging to assess urinary incontinence and uterine prolapse is described in this issue, and a thorough review of fetal MR imaging is provided with emphasis on fetal neuroimaging. As the industry moves toward higher-field imaging, there is a need to explore the advantages and challenges associated with adapting female pelvic protocols to 3T systems. The final article of this issue addresses optimization strategies for currently available 3T scanners and equipment, and outlines technical improvements that will facilitate successful high-field MR imaging of the female pelvis in the future.