
Preface

When I first got into Pediatric Radiology in the 1960s and then when I moved to UTMB in Galveston, Texas in 1970, I became more and more interested in the cervical spine. I realized that in the pediatric age group, interpretation of the cervical spine images was often a problem for everyone, including myself. The reason for this was that there are many normal physiologic and anatomic variations that frequently mimic pathology, and at times this would become confusing.

Fortunately, shortly after arriving in Galveston, I came across a monograph entitled *The Upper Cervical Spine*, authored in 1972 by Detlef von Torklus and Walter Gehle from the orthopedic clinic and outpatient department at University Hospital in Hamburg Germany. This book was excellent in explaining anatomic and physiologic phenomena and was of great help for me. I then went on to look at things such as physiologic subluxation of C2 on C3, wedging of C3 and C4, the predental distance, and the differences in fractures sustained under the age of 5 from those sustained in older children and adults. Slowly, I began to feel more comfortable with the C-Spine and started to publish articles on it and also write chapters and textbooks. To this date, the lectures that I am asked to do most often are “The Cervical Spine: What Is Normal and What Is Abnormal,” and another lecture on the same topic with a slightly different title, “The Cervical Spine in Children: When to Worry?”

Although all of this started with plain films, many of the findings are now readily transferable to CT and MR, especially Sagittal reconstructed views on CT. Therefore, I have attempted to blend the findings on plain films with those seen on CT and MR and emphasize which imaging modality produces best results, for any given condition. In addition, there is constant emphasis on normal anatomic and physiologic phenomena that mimic pathology.

Finally, I would like to thank my secretary Shirl Veal for all her assistance with this book. She is always up to any challenge and performs her duties with expertise and promptness. I am indebted to her for all the help she has given me in preparing this book.

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