rsna physics modules

rsna physics modules are essential educational tools designed to enhance the understanding of medical physics concepts, specifically within the realm of radiology. Developed by the Radiological Society of North America, these modules provide in-depth coverage of physics principles applicable to diagnostic imaging and radiation therapy. They serve as foundational learning resources for radiologists, medical physicists, and radiologic technologists aiming to maintain competence and stay current with advancing technologies. The modules address complex topics such as radiation safety, image quality optimization, and equipment performance evaluation. This comprehensive article explores the structure, content, and benefits of rsna physics modules, highlighting their role in professional development and quality assurance in radiology practice. Below is an outline of the topics covered.

- Overview of RSNA Physics Modules
- Core Topics Covered in RSNA Physics Modules
- Target Audience and Educational Benefits
- Integration with Continuing Medical Education (CME)
- Accessibility and Format of RSNA Physics Modules
- Impact on Radiology Practice and Patient Safety

Overview of RSNA Physics Modules

RSNA physics modules are structured instructional materials developed by the Radiological Society of North America to support education in medical imaging physics. These modules are carefully crafted to present fundamental and advanced physics topics that underpin diagnostic radiology and radiation oncology. They are designed to facilitate self-directed learning and structured study, enabling learners to build a robust understanding of critical physics concepts relevant to their clinical practice. The RSNA physics modules typically include detailed explanations, illustrative examples, and practical applications to reinforce learning outcomes.

Development and Purpose

The purpose of the RSNA physics modules is to provide a comprehensive, standardized curriculum that addresses the educational needs of professionals involved in imaging and radiotherapy. Developed by experts in medical physics and radiology, the modules aim to promote best practices, enhance safety protocols, and improve imaging quality through better understanding of physics principles. They serve as a valuable resource for board exam

preparation, continuing education, and technical training.

Structure and Content Delivery

Each RSNA physics module is organized into thematic units covering specific areas of medical physics. Content is delivered through a combination of textual explanations, diagrams, and interactive components where applicable. This structured approach supports incremental learning and allows users to focus on particular topics of interest or areas requiring reinforcement. Furthermore, assessments and quizzes may be included to test comprehension and retention.

Core Topics Covered in RSNA Physics Modules

The RSNA physics modules encompass a wide range of topics critical to understanding the physics of medical imaging and radiation therapy. These topics are selected to provide a balanced education covering theoretical foundations, practical considerations, and regulatory aspects. The breadth and depth of the modules ensure that learners are well-equipped to address challenges encountered in clinical environments.

Radiation Physics Fundamentals

This section covers the basic properties of ionizing radiation, including x-rays, gamma rays, and particle radiation. Topics include the nature and interaction of radiation with matter, principles of radiation production, and fundamental concepts such as attenuation, scatter, and absorption. Understanding these basics is crucial for interpreting imaging results and optimizing imaging protocols.

Imaging Modalities and Techniques

Modules detail the physics behind various imaging modalities such as conventional radiography, computed tomography (CT), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), and ultrasound. Each modality's operational principles, image formation processes, and factors influencing image quality are thoroughly examined. This knowledge assists practitioners in selecting appropriate imaging techniques and optimizing parameters for diagnostic accuracy.

Radiation Dosimetry and Safety

One of the most critical components of the physics modules is radiation safety, focusing on dose measurement, monitoring, and reduction strategies. Topics include dosimetry units, dose limits, shielding principles, and regulatory standards. The modules emphasize the ALARA (As Low As Reasonably Achievable) principle to minimize patient and staff exposure while maintaining image quality.

Quality Assurance and Equipment Performance

Ensuring reliable and accurate imaging requires regular quality assurance (QA) procedures. The modules provide guidelines for QA testing, equipment calibration, and performance evaluation. They cover key parameters such as spatial resolution, contrast, noise, and artifact identification. Regular QA helps maintain compliance with regulatory requirements and supports clinical decision-making.

- Radiation physics fundamentals
- Imaging modalities and techniques
- Radiation dosimetry and safety
- Quality assurance and equipment performance
- Regulatory and ethical considerations

Target Audience and Educational Benefits

RSNA physics modules are tailored for a diverse audience within the medical imaging community. They are particularly beneficial for radiologists, medical physicists, radiologic technologists, and residents in training. By providing a clear and comprehensive physics education, these modules help improve professional competence and foster a culture of safety and quality in radiology departments.

Radiologists and Residents

For radiologists and residents, the modules offer a deep dive into the physics principles that impact imaging interpretation and clinical decision-making. This knowledge enhances diagnostic accuracy and supports the effective use of advanced imaging technologies. The modules also assist residents in preparing for board certification exams by covering essential physics topics systematically.

Medical Physicists

Medical physicists benefit from the modules as a reference for fundamental and applied physics concepts. They support physicists in developing, implementing, and maintaining quality assurance programs and radiation safety protocols. The modules also facilitate ongoing professional development and compliance with certification requirements.

Radiologic Technologists

For technologists, understanding physics principles is vital for optimizing

imaging parameters and ensuring patient safety. The modules provide practical knowledge about equipment operation, dose management, and image quality assessment, empowering technologists to contribute actively to the imaging process.

Integration with Continuing Medical Education (CME)

The RSNA physics modules are often integrated into continuing medical education programs, allowing professionals to earn CME credits while expanding their physics knowledge. This integration underscores the educational value and recognized quality of the modules within the radiology community.

CME Credit Opportunities

Completion of certain RSNA physics modules qualifies learners for CME credits, which are essential for maintaining medical licensure and board certification. The availability of CME credits incentivizes participation and supports lifelong learning among imaging professionals.

Structured Learning Pathways

RSNA provides structured curricula that combine multiple physics modules into comprehensive courses aligned with professional development goals. These pathways enable learners to progress logically from basic concepts to advanced topics, ensuring mastery and practical applicability.

Accessibility and Format of RSNA Physics Modules

Accessibility is a key feature of RSNA physics modules, designed to facilitate widespread use across diverse professional settings. The modules are available in digital formats suitable for self-paced online learning, making them convenient and flexible educational resources.

Online Platform and User Interface

The modules are hosted on an intuitive online platform that allows easy navigation through topics and interactive elements. Users can track progress, revisit content, and access supplementary materials as needed. This userfriendly interface enhances engagement and learning retention.

Modular Design and Flexibility

The modular design permits learners to select topics relevant to their needs or interests, tailoring their educational experience. This flexibility

supports targeted learning for specific clinical applications or exam preparation, optimizing time and resource use.

Impact on Radiology Practice and Patient Safety

The comprehensive education provided by RSNA physics modules contributes significantly to improving radiology practice standards and patient safety outcomes. By deepening understanding of physics principles, healthcare professionals can optimize imaging protocols and minimize risks associated with radiation exposure.

Enhancing Image Quality and Diagnostic Confidence

Knowledge gained from the modules enables practitioners to adjust imaging parameters effectively, reduce artifacts, and enhance image clarity. Improved image quality directly supports accurate diagnosis and treatment planning.

Promoting Radiation Protection Principles

Emphasizing radiation safety through education helps foster adherence to protective measures such as shielding, dose optimization, and monitoring. This reduces unnecessary radiation exposure to patients and staff, aligning with regulatory requirements and ethical standards.

Supporting Regulatory Compliance and Accreditation

Facilities that utilize RSNA physics modules as part of their training and quality assurance programs are better positioned to meet accreditation standards and regulatory mandates. This compliance enhances institutional reputation and patient trust.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the RSNA physics modules?

The RSNA physics modules are a set of educational resources developed by the Radiological Society of North America to help radiology professionals and students understand key physics concepts related to medical imaging.

Who can benefit from using the RSNA physics modules?

Radiology residents, practicing radiologists, medical physicists, and radiologic technologists can benefit from the RSNA physics modules to enhance their understanding of imaging physics and improve clinical practice.

What topics are covered in the RSNA physics modules?

The RSNA physics modules cover a wide range of topics including X-ray production, image formation, radiation safety, MRI physics, CT principles, ultrasound physics, and nuclear medicine.

Are the RSNA physics modules available online for free?

Yes, the RSNA physics modules are available online for free through the RSNA website, providing accessible educational material for radiology professionals worldwide.

How are the RSNA physics modules structured?

The modules are typically structured into interactive lessons, quizzes, and case-based scenarios designed to reinforce learning and assess comprehension of physics principles in medical imaging.

Can the RSNA physics modules help prepare for board exams?

Yes, many radiology residents use the RSNA physics modules as a study aid to prepare for board examinations as they thoroughly cover essential physics concepts tested in radiology certification.

Is there continuing medical education (CME) credit available through RSNA physics modules?

Some RSNA physics modules offer CME credits upon completion, allowing medical professionals to fulfill continuing education requirements while enhancing their knowledge in imaging physics.

Additional Resources

1. Radiologic Physics: The Basics

This book offers a comprehensive introduction to the fundamental concepts of radiologic physics, tailored for students preparing for the RSNA physics modules. It covers topics such as X-ray production, radiation interactions, and imaging quality in an accessible manner. The content is complemented by clear illustrations and practical examples to facilitate understanding.

2. Essentials of Radiologic Science

A concise guide that focuses on the key principles of radiologic science, this book serves as an excellent resource for mastering RSNA physics topics. It explains complex subjects like radiation biology, safety, and imaging technology with clarity and precision. The text includes review questions and

summaries to reinforce learning.

3. Physics of Medical Imaging

This title delves into the physical principles underlying various medical imaging modalities, including X-ray, CT, MRI, and ultrasound. It is valuable for RSNA physics module candidates seeking a deeper understanding of image formation and quality. The book balances theoretical concepts with practical applications in clinical settings.

4. Introduction to Radiologic Technology

Designed for beginners, this book introduces the basics of radiologic technology and physics. It covers radiation production, equipment operation, and radiation protection standards relevant to the RSNA curriculum. The straightforward explanations make it suitable for those new to the field.

5. Computed Tomography: Physical Principles, Clinical Applications, and Quality Control

Focusing specifically on CT imaging, this book explores the physics and technology behind computed tomography. It addresses image acquisition, reconstruction techniques, and quality assurance protocols aligned with RSNA module content. Readers gain insights into optimizing CT imaging for patient safety and diagnostic efficacy.

- 6. Radiation Protection in Medical Radiography
- This book emphasizes the importance of radiation safety in diagnostic imaging, a core component of RSNA physics training. It discusses dose measurement, shielding, and regulatory guidelines to minimize patient and staff exposure. Practical strategies and case studies illustrate best practices in radiation protection.
- 7. Magnetic Resonance Imaging: Physical and Biological Principles
 Providing an in-depth look at MRI physics, this text explains magnetic
 resonance phenomena, pulse sequences, and image contrast mechanisms. It
 aligns with the RSNA physics modules by covering both theoretical and
 clinical aspects of MRI technology. The book includes problem sets to test
 comprehension.
- 8. Ultrasound Physics and Instrumentation

This book covers the foundational physics of ultrasound imaging, including sound wave propagation, transducer technology, and image formation. It supports RSNA module objectives by explaining both technical parameters and safety considerations. The clear diagrams aid in visualizing complex concepts.

9. Digital Radiography and PACS

Focusing on digital imaging technologies, this book explores the principles of digital radiography and Picture Archiving and Communication Systems (PACS). It addresses image acquisition, processing, and storage relevant to modern radiologic practice and RSNA physics content. The text highlights advancements that improve diagnostic accuracy and workflow efficiency.

Rsna Physics Modules

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RSNA Physics Modules: A Comprehensive Guide to Medical Physics for Radiology Professionals

Ebook Title: Mastering Medical Physics: A Deep Dive into RSNA Physics Modules

Ebook Outline:

Introduction: The Importance of Physics in Radiology & Overview of RSNA Modules

Chapter 1: Radiation Physics Fundamentals - Interactions, Attenuation, and Scatter

Chapter 2: Image Formation and Processing - Digital Radiography, Fluoroscopy, and CT

Chapter 3: Radiation Dosimetry and Protection - ALARA Principles and Safety Protocols

Chapter 4: Nuclear Medicine Physics - Radionuclides, Instrumentation, and Imaging Techniques

Chapter 5: MRI Physics - Principles of Magnetic Resonance Imaging

Chapter 6: Radiation Therapy Physics - Treatment Planning and Delivery

Chapter 7: Quality Assurance and Quality Control in Medical Imaging

Conclusion: Future Trends in Medical Physics and Continuing Education

Mastering Medical Physics: A Deep Dive into RSNA Physics Modules

Introduction: The Importance of Physics in Radiology & Overview of RSNA Modules

The field of radiology relies heavily on a strong foundation in medical physics. Understanding the underlying physical principles governing image acquisition, processing, and radiation safety is paramount for radiologists, radiology technologists, and other medical professionals involved in imaging procedures. The Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) recognizes this critical need and provides comprehensive educational resources, including its renowned physics modules. These modules offer a structured and in-depth exploration of essential physics concepts relevant to various radiology modalities. This ebook serves as a guide to navigate the complexities of these modules, providing a deeper understanding and practical application of the knowledge presented. Mastering this material is not just about passing exams; it's about enhancing patient safety, improving diagnostic accuracy, and ultimately advancing the field of medical imaging.

Chapter 1: Radiation Physics Fundamentals - Interactions, Attenuation, and Scatter

This chapter delves into the fundamental interactions of ionizing radiation with matter. It begins by

explaining the different types of radiation (X-rays, gamma rays) and their properties. A crucial concept covered is the process of attenuation, which describes how radiation intensity decreases as it passes through matter. This is heavily influenced by the energy of the radiation and the atomic number and density of the material. The chapter meticulously explains the different mechanisms of attenuation – photoelectric effect, Compton scattering, and pair production – highlighting their significance in image formation and radiation protection. Detailed mathematical models and calculations illustrating attenuation are included, providing a quantitative understanding of the process. Furthermore, the chapter explores scatter radiation, its impact on image quality (reducing contrast and increasing noise), and strategies to minimize scatter, such as collimators, grids, and optimized imaging techniques. This foundational knowledge is crucial for understanding the principles behind all subsequent imaging modalities.

Chapter 2: Image Formation and Processing - Digital Radiography, Fluoroscopy, and CT

This chapter transitions from fundamental radiation physics to the practical application of those principles in image acquisition and processing. It starts with digital radiography (DR), explaining the conversion of X-ray photons into digital signals by various detectors (e.g., flat-panel detectors). Concepts like spatial resolution, contrast resolution, and detective quantum efficiency (DQE) are discussed, providing a quantitative assessment of image quality. Next, fluoroscopy is examined, emphasizing the real-time imaging capabilities and the associated radiation dose implications. The use of image intensification and digital subtraction angiography (DSA) is discussed in detail. Finally, the chapter explores computed tomography (CT), providing a comprehensive overview of the principles of image reconstruction from multiple projection data. Topics such as slice thickness, helical scanning, and image artifacts are carefully explained, along with the role of various image processing techniques in enhancing image quality and reducing artifacts.

Chapter 3: Radiation Dosimetry and Protection - ALARA Principles and Safety Protocols

Radiation safety is paramount in medical imaging. This chapter introduces the fundamental principles of radiation dosimetry, including the units of measurement (Gray, Sievert) and the various dosimeters used to measure radiation exposure. The chapter emphasizes the ALARA principle (As Low As Reasonably Achievable) and explores different strategies for minimizing radiation dose to both patients and personnel. This includes techniques such as proper collimation, optimized exposure parameters, and the use of protective shielding. The chapter discusses the biological effects of ionizing radiation, emphasizing the importance of understanding the risks associated with exposure. Detailed safety protocols for different imaging modalities are explored, ensuring that readers understand the practical aspects of radiation safety in their day-to-day work. The discussion also includes regulations and guidelines for radiation protection, adhering to national and international standards.

Chapter 4: Nuclear Medicine Physics - Radionuclides, Instrumentation, and Imaging Techniques

This chapter explores the physics behind nuclear medicine imaging techniques, starting with a description of radionuclides and their radioactive decay processes. Different types of nuclear decay (alpha, beta, gamma) and their properties are discussed. The chapter delves into the instrumentation used in nuclear medicine, including gamma cameras and PET scanners. The principles of image acquisition and reconstruction are explained, with a focus on the detection of gamma rays emitted by the administered radionuclides. Different imaging techniques, such as

single-photon emission computed tomography (SPECT) and positron emission tomography (PET), are compared and contrasted. The chapter also covers important aspects of radiation dosimetry and safety in nuclear medicine procedures, highlighting the unique challenges and considerations of this modality.

Chapter 5: MRI Physics - Principles of Magnetic Resonance Imaging

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) relies on fundamentally different physical principles compared to other imaging modalities. This chapter introduces the basic concepts of nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR), including the properties of nuclear spins and their interaction with magnetic fields. The concepts of relaxation times (T1 and T2) and their importance in image contrast are thoroughly explained. The chapter describes the different pulse sequences used in MRI and their impact on image characteristics. Spatial encoding techniques (gradient coils) are detailed, along with image reconstruction methods. The chapter also touches upon the various MRI coils and their specific applications, addressing the strengths and limitations of different MRI techniques. Safety considerations related to MRI, such as the potential hazards of strong magnetic fields and RF radiation, are also discussed.

Chapter 6: Radiation Therapy Physics - Treatment Planning and Delivery

This chapter focuses on the application of physics in radiation therapy, outlining the principles of external beam radiotherapy and brachytherapy. It explains the process of treatment planning, including the use of computed tomography (CT) scans, simulation, and dose calculation algorithms. The chapter covers different radiation delivery techniques, such as three-dimensional conformal radiotherapy (3DCRT) and intensity-modulated radiotherapy (IMRT). The use of treatment planning systems (TPS) and the importance of quality assurance in radiation therapy are discussed. The chapter also includes a discussion on the biological effects of radiation and the principles of dose fractionation. Finally, the safety protocols and radiation protection measures implemented during radiation therapy procedures are emphasized.

Chapter 7: Quality Assurance and Quality Control in Medical Imaging

Maintaining high quality in medical imaging is crucial for accurate diagnosis and effective treatment. This chapter explores the importance of quality assurance (QA) and quality control (QC) in various radiology modalities. Different QC tests and procedures for various imaging systems (X-ray, CT, MRI, nuclear medicine) are described, including image quality assessment methods and the use of phantoms. The chapter explains the role of regular maintenance and calibration in ensuring optimal performance of imaging equipment. The use of QA/QC data for evaluating system performance and identifying potential problems is highlighted. The importance of regulatory compliance and adherence to professional standards is also discussed.

Conclusion: Future Trends in Medical Physics and Continuing Education

The field of medical physics is constantly evolving, with new technologies and techniques emerging at a rapid pace. This conclusion summarizes the key takeaways from the preceding chapters and looks ahead to future trends in medical physics. The chapter explores emerging modalities like molecular imaging and advanced image processing techniques. The importance of continuing

education and professional development in medical physics is emphasized, highlighting the resources available to professionals seeking to stay abreast of the latest advancements. Finally, the ebook encourages readers to continue their learning journey and contribute to the advancement of medical imaging through ongoing professional development.

FAQs:

- 1. What are the prerequisites for understanding RSNA physics modules? A basic understanding of physics and mathematics is helpful.
- 2. Are the RSNA modules suitable for all radiology professionals? Yes, they cater to different levels of expertise, from students to experienced professionals.
- 3. How are the RSNA modules structured? They typically consist of lectures, case studies, and self-assessment questions.
- 4. Are the modules available online? Access may vary; check the RSNA website for current offerings.
- 5. How can I best utilize these modules for exam preparation? Active participation and review of materials are key.
- 6. What is the best way to apply the knowledge gained from these modules? Through practical application in clinical settings.
- 7. Are there any recommended textbooks to supplement the RSNA modules? Yes, several textbooks complement the modules' content.
- 8. How often are the RSNA modules updated? They are periodically reviewed and updated to reflect advances in the field.
- 9. Where can I find additional resources related to medical physics? Various professional organizations and online platforms offer valuable resources.

Related Articles:

- 1. Introduction to Medical Imaging Physics: A foundational overview of the field.
- 2. X-ray Production and Image Formation: Detailed explanation of X-ray generation and imaging principles.
- 3. CT Image Reconstruction Techniques: A deep dive into the mathematical algorithms used in CT.
- 4. MRI Pulse Sequences and Their Applications: Explores different pulse sequences and their clinical uses.
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- 8. Quality Assurance and Quality Control in Diagnostic Radiology: A practical guide to ensuring image quality.
- 9. The Future of Medical Imaging: Emerging Technologies and Trends: Discusses upcoming innovations in medical imaging.

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Review of Radiologic Physics, 5th Edition, by Dr. William F. Sensakovic, is a high-yield, efficient resource for today's clinically focused exams. Now fully up to date, this edition covers x-ray production and interactions, projection and tomographic imaging, image quality, radiobiology, radiation protection, nuclear medicine, ultrasound, and magnetic resonance—all of the important physics information you need to understand the factors that improve or degrade image quality.

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rsna physics modules: Essential Imaging in Rheumatology John O'Neill, 2014-11-12 This book offers an excellent review of the various rheumatological conditions, both common and uncommon, that may present on imaging on a daily basis. The book uses a unique format that will be beneficial for clinicians, radiologists, medical students, and consultant staff. The text is written by both rheumatology and radiology staff to provide a balanced approach. A clinical overview and the common clinical presentations are briefly reviewed for each condition followed by a more detailed discussion of imaging findings produced by the various imaging modalities, including radiographs, ultrasound, MRI, CT, and nuclear medicine. This book details the imaging of normal musculoskeletal anatomy and pathology; discusses image-guided musculoskeletal interventions; and examines disorders such as rheumatoid arthritis, connective tissue disease, osteoarthritis, osteonecrosis, infection-related arthritis, soft tissue calcification, and bone and synovial tumors. Featuring over 600 multi-part, high-resolution images of rheumatic diseases across current imaging modalities, Essential Imaging in Rheumatology offers up-to-date and complete information on the imaging of these disorders. Developed by the authors of Essential Imaging In Rheumatology are three new exciting interactive imaging Apps that enhance the invaluable information provided in the book. Rheumatology and imaging are closely linked specialties particularly with the expansion of the imaging armamentarium available to the rheumatologists in the last decade. Imaging has a strong impact on patient diagnosis, management and outcome, requiring both the rheumatologist and the radiologist to have a clear understanding of pathologies and their variable imaging appearances, differential diagnosis and optimal imaging algorithms. A primary focus of our Imaging In Rheumatology Edicational Initiative is to thus to stimulate interest in rheumatological imaging and

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reflects radiologists' day-to-day needs...and is invaluable for board preparation. Organized by anatomic area, the book outlines and illustrates typical radiologic findings for every disease in every organ system. Tables on the left-hand pages outline conditions and characteristic imaging findings...and offer comments to guide diagnosis. Images on the right-hand pages illustrate the major findings noted in the tables. A new companion Website allows readers to assess and further sharpen their diagnostic skills.

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Provides a practical guide to device-specific tips and tricks from experts in the field, making this unique resource ideal for surgeons at all levels of training and practice. - Features highly illustrated, consistent instructions that explain how to avoid and manage both common and uncommon complications. - Covers EVAR, TEVAR, FEVAR, and other complex aortic work; as well as CAS, TCAR, complex LE endovascular procedures, and venous intervention-lysis/stenting. - Includes tip boxes with key facts and technical recommendations, warning boxes that highlight safety precautions, and a troubleshooting guide for each procedure that helps you get back on track if things don't go exactly as planned.

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Morozov, Paul R. Algra, 2019-01-29 This book provides a thorough overview of the ongoing evolution in the application of artificial intelligence (AI) within healthcare and radiology, enabling readers to gain a deeper insight into the technological background of AI and the impacts of new and emerging technologies on medical imaging. After an introduction on game changers in radiology, such as deep learning technology, the technological evolution of AI in computing science and medical image computing is described, with explanation of basic principles and the types and subtypes of AI. Subsequent sections address the use of imaging biomarkers, the development and validation of AI applications, and various aspects and issues relating to the growing role of big data in radiology. Diverse real-life clinical applications of AI are then outlined for different body parts, demonstrating their ability to add value to daily radiology practices. The concluding section focuses on the impact of AI on radiology and the implications for radiologists, for example with respect to training. Written by radiologists and IT professionals, the book will be of high value for radiologists, medical/clinical physicists, IT specialists, and imaging informatics professionals.

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