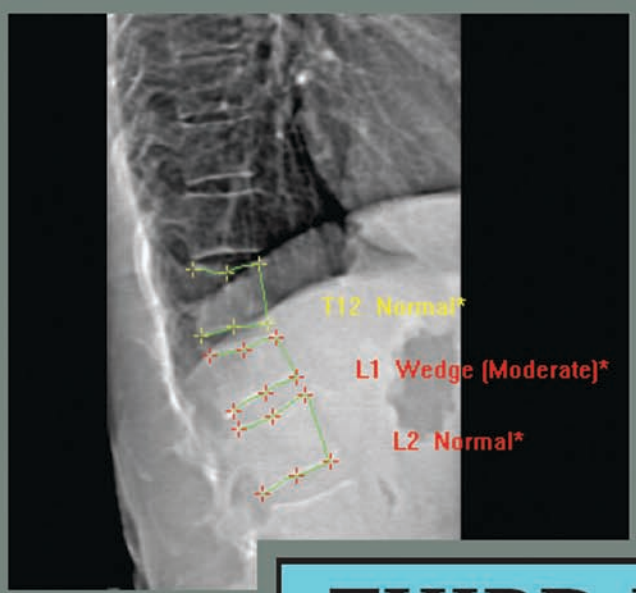
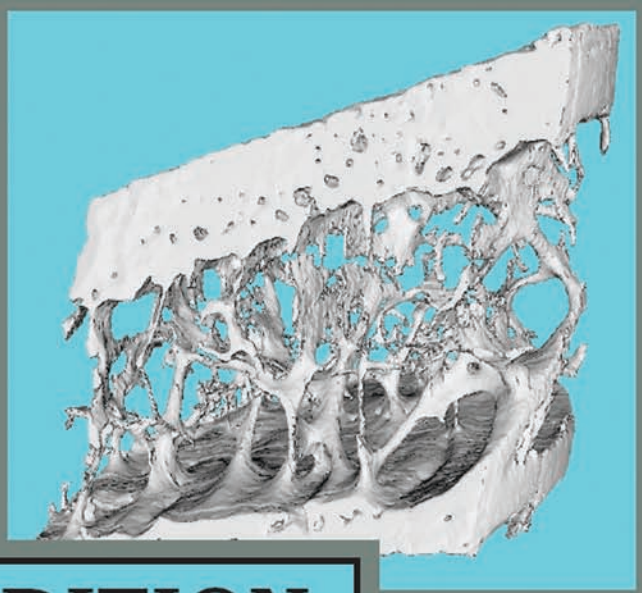
An Atlas of OSTEOPOROSIS





THIRD EDITION

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Foreword

Over the last several years, many volumes have appeared on the subject of osteoporosis. Most of these are multi-authored books with a high degree of scientific accuracy, but the usual heterogeneity in writing style. In this, the third edition of An Atlas of Osteoporosis, Drs Stevenson and Marsh have produced an exciting volume that provides cogent, up-to-date evaluation of the pathophysiology, prevention and treatment of osteoporosis. The large number of figures and diagrams render this a novel volume. This unique approach to osteoporosis provides a valuable resource for physicians who practice in the field as well as for those who see patients with osteoporosis only occasionally. It will be particularly useful for young physicians as they enter their career. Written in a readable style throughout, the many illustrations enhance the text, fulfilling the old adage, 'a picture is worth a thousand words'. Of particular importance are the images surrounding the techniques of bone densitometry, which demonstrate not only the techniques, but the output from the techniques. This provides an introduction for the practicing physician to the technology which has become of increasing clinical importance. Osteoporosis is defined as a disease of low bone density which is recognised as a major risk factor for fracture. Thus, in order to make the diagnosis, the clinician must make use of bone densitometry. However, many physicians are still wary of a test that they did not learn about in medical school or during their early training. This volume places that test in its clinical context, provides a review of a majority of the tests that are currently available and should enhance the comfort level of any practicing physician with this investigation. In situations in which the original print-outs are not provided to the practicing doctor from the densitometry unit, the illustrations here allow the clinician to provide simple explanation to the patient about the test, its meaning, its interpretation and its clinical utility.

The senior author, Dr John Stevenson, is a Reader in Medicine at Imperial College and is an international expert in the field of osteoporosis and metabolic medicine. In this volume, Dr Stevenson brings his outstanding gifts as a teacher and scientist and provides the high-quality, factual information required to make a success of this volume. He is ably supported by Dr Michael Marsh who is a Consultant Gynecologist with a thorough understanding of this disease and its importance for the Ob/Gyn community. In this third edition, they have enhanced figures, updated and revised text, and provide a detailed account of the advances that have occurred in osteoporosis in a format of particular use to clinicians. I can thoroughly recommend this book to those with both a passing and a detailed interest in this disease.

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