As a common concept ‘bone age’ is felt to be an expression of the biological maturity of a child. Inferring from bone maturity, the clinician can contemplate diagnostic considerations and evaluate height prediction.

A radiogram of the hand and wrist may provide additional information that is not being evaluated by reading of a ‘bone age’. Although it reveals only calcified elements it provides a glimpse into a whole variety of processes in bone and cartilage growth, differentiation and calcification which, in turn, are regulated by control mechanisms. Thyroid hormones, sex steroids, calcium regulating hormones are but a few of these control mechanisms, and their effect may become evident when radiograms are carefully examined.

This book illustrates how to interpret the biological mechanisms of growth from hand and wrist x-rays reviewing at the same time the anatomical and histological maturation of long bones and cuboid bones. It summarizes the endocrine regulation of these maturational processes and attempts to uncover endocrine functions and malfunctions as they unfold in the radiogram. The presently used methods of skeletal maturity assessment are outlined and reiterated, while some doubts about the entire paradigm and its uncertainties are to be raised and considered.

This book is an indispensable aid enabling endocrinologists, radiologists and pediatricians to understand skeletal maturity in a more meaningful way.
Practical Algorithms in Pediatric Endocrinology

Modern textbooks are mainly oriented by body systems, disease or diagnosis, yet the practising physician is confronted with the patient's complaint by a symptom, physical sign or laboratory abnormality, from which he is expected to diagnose and proceed with treatment. The traditional medical approach is through differential diagnosis by exclusion. Algorithms provide a direct approach to breaking down long lists/tables of differential diagnosis into smaller, more manageable ones. Often, a whole group of diagnoses can be excluded by a single or a group of signs, blood tests or imaging.

This book is meant as a pragmatic text to be used at the patient's bedside. It classifies common clinical symptoms, signs and laboratory abnormalities as they present themselves in daily practice. Aimed at an audience of general and family practitioners, trainees or pediatricians who are not exposed on a day-to-day basis to pediatric endocrine problems, it provides a logical, concise and cost-effective approach from which they can profit and acquire medical reasoning.

Topics
- Growth
- Puberty
- Intersex
- Adrenal
- Water and electrolytes
- Calcium metabolism
- Thyroid
- Carbohydrates

Conclusions

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Fields of Interest: Endocrinology; Pediatrics; Anthropology, Radiology, Anatomy

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