

## Focus on medicolegal aspects of finding incidentalomas is a stand-out aspect of this volume

*Incidental Radiological Findings*, by Weckbach. Published by Springer, price £108.00.

**Reviewed by Dr Daniel Bell, clinical lead radiologist, North Middlesex University Hospital.**

I believe this slim volume is unique in its overview of the subject of incidental findings. Incidental findings, as any practising radiologist will attest to, are not just occasionally found but, as stated here, account for 20 per cent of all imaging findings. However, and unsurprisingly to any radiologist, less than one per cent of these findings are malignant. Therefore a book focusing in on the 'what, why and how' of these unexpected pick-ups is long overdue.

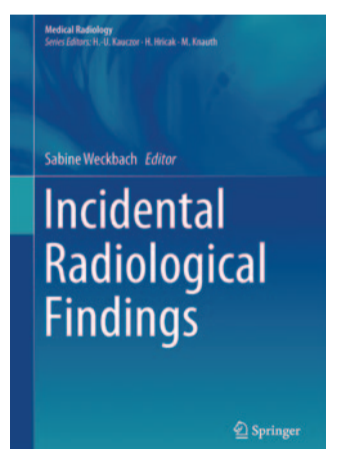
The book is divided into four main parts; initially the introduction covers the definition of incidental findings, both in a broader sense as understood by most clinicians, but also a narrower one as used in the research setting. Thereafter is a strong exposition of the ethical issues. The first part concludes with a nice review of

the medicolegal aspects. This is not just dry text but real-life cases showing beautifully how lawyers out-manoeuvre radiologists into scoring own goals.

The second and third parts deal with large-scale population screening imaging and the issues created by finding unexpected potential pathologies, in people who would not normally be considered patients. It is clear that one needs to deal with these issues prospectively, in detail and sensitively to ensure that the studies are not overwhelmed by a flood of incidentalomas and anxious participants.

Finally the last, and longest, part covers the clinicoradiologic approach to specific incidentalomas throughout the body, covering both body systems and modalities, eg PETCT, PETMR and ultrasound. A short, interesting section on the classification of incidental findings in both the research and clinical contexts is also provided.

The radiological images reproduced in the book are of high quality and easy to appreciate the points being



made. However, this is not a teaching atlas and hence there is a relative lack of images for a radiology text.

Unfortunately the book is a little pricey for such a short tome, and therefore I think it would make more sense as a departmental purchase than for the individual specialist.

Overall, I highly recommend this book. Its section on the clinical aspects of incidental findings is a useful overview for the practising specialist. But its treatises on the ethical and medicolegal aspects of finding incidentalomas are its standout sections, and not covered well in other texts I have seen.