
Preface

I just ‘love the knee’. Just like my ultimate mentor, Dr. Yuji Itai (specialist of abdominal imaging, now deceased) being so excited to see the images of the liver during conferences, my heart starts beating faster as soon as I encounter images showing the anterior cruciate ligament or menisci of the knee joint.

It was during the year 2010 when I received an offer from Dr. Daichi Hayashi, a Research Scholar at Boston University School of Medicine, to publish an English edition of my book entitled ‘Hiza MRI (= Knee MRI in Japanese)’. I accepted it without hesitation, since I thought this was a golden opportunity for me to publish a book in English and to share my knowledge and experience with radiologists around the world. I am wholeheartedly grateful to Dr. Hayashi’s supervisor, Prof. Ali Guermazi, who highly appreciated the value of my publication at a glance. I gave my full trust to Dr. Hayashi who was educated in the United Kingdom (and therefore is bilingual) to translate the entire book all by himself. It must have taken him lots of time and effort to complete the translation, and I am genuinely thankful for his dedication to this project. Moreover, I would like to thank Prof. Kunihiko Fukuda, Dr. Hayashi’s mentor in Japan and the Chairman of Radiology Department at the Jikei University Hospital, Tokyo, Japan, who introduced Dr. Hayashi to me.

The first edition of the original book in Japanese ‘Hiza MRI’ was published almost 10 years ago. During the last decade, technological advances enabled improvement of the quality of images, thanks to development and clinical application of 3.0T MRI systems, multichannel coils and other new imaging apparatus. At the same time, my collection of images expanded steadily. The second edition of the Japanese edition was published in 2009. Both these publications could not have materialized without the unreserved support from Dr. Kotaro Ikeda, an orthopaedic surgeon and the Director of Ichihara Hospital, Tsukuba, Japan. Most of the arthroscopic images were kindly provided by Dr. Ikeda. I also received support from other orthopaedic surgeons in Tsukuba and Tokyo, and I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all those who helped me. Last but not least, I am extremely thankful to Dr. Toru Fukubayashi of Waseda University, Dr. Yukihsa Saida of St Luke’s International Hospital, Tokyo, Japan, and editorial staff of Igakushoin (the Japanese publisher of the original book) for their generous support.

Finally, I would like to finish by emphasizing the importance of slight flexion of the knee during acquisition of knee MRI (mainly for the purpose of better delineation of the anterior cruciate ligament). Details are found in [Chapter 3](#). This simple maneuver is not routinely done in the clinical practice (at least in Japan). This is an unfortunate and regretful situation since I have been emphasizing this point for over a decade. I sincerely wish that the readers of this book appreciate the value of such practice and it will become widespread knowledge and eventually ‘common sense’ all over the world

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Preface by the Translator Supervisor

It was during a busy clinical day that I went to my research lab to see my (then) research fellow, Dr. Daichi Hayashi, during a lunch break. When I entered his office, he was reading knee MRI for our research project, and beside him was a green textbook written in Japanese. “What are you reading?” I asked. Daichi replied, “It is a Japanese ‘bible’ of knee MRI.” I had a look at the book myself, but of course, I could not fully understand the full value of the book then because it was written in Japanese. However, what I did realize was that this book has an excellent and well-organized collection of cases regarding MRI of knee pathologies. I understood this book was more like an MRI atlas of knee pathology, rather than a reference material. I then suggested to Daichi that perhaps we could translate this book into English so that non-Japanese radiologists can also benefit from this “Japanese bible” of knee MRI. I then contacted my dear friend, Ute Heilmann at Springer who immediately gave me full support with enthusiasm, as usual. I had to rely on Daichi to communicate with the Japanese author of the original book, Professor Mamoru Niitsu, and the publisher Igakushoin to make this project come true, and Daichi did an excellent job for me. Fortunately for me, I had a chance to visit Japan because I was invited as a guest speaker at the Japanese Congress of Radiology in Yokohama in September 2010. There, I met with Prof. Niitsu and had further discussion about this project in person. Initially, I suggested that we add some new images to replace some figures that looked a little bit outdated or of suboptimal quality in today’s publication standard. However, during our negotiation, Prof. Niitsu made it clear that he wished that the translated book is an exact “English” copy of the original book. Unfortunately, he could not provide images with better quality, so in the end, we all agreed that we would fully honor Prof. Niitsu’s wish. Therefore, no additional figures or illustration were introduced into this English version. Personally, some references seem outdated, but since this book only concerns clinical diagnosis and not up-to-date clinical research studies, I believe it does not matter too much. MRI appearance of ACL tear should not have changed within the last couple of decades! Once the project began, Daichi showed his dedication to it and worked day and night. He is a Japanese-born British-educated radiologist-in-training and is a true bilingual man. Without his passion and commitment, this translation project could not have materialized. Some contents were specifically referring to Japanese terminology used in clinical practice in Japan, and these were omitted from this translation because it was impossible to translate. Otherwise, the end product is an almost exact “English copy” of the original book. I sincerely hope that this MRI atlas of knee pathology becomes a good companion to general radiologists and residents all over the world in their clinical work on a daily basis. I will certainly recommend this book to residents who are doing MSK rotation in my hospital! As always, I would like to thank Ute and the editorial team at Springer for their unreserved support toward this project. Also, I am thankful to Prof. Niitsu and the editorial staff at Igakushoin who provided all images for this book. Having read through the English version, I strongly believe my decision to take up this project was a right one!

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