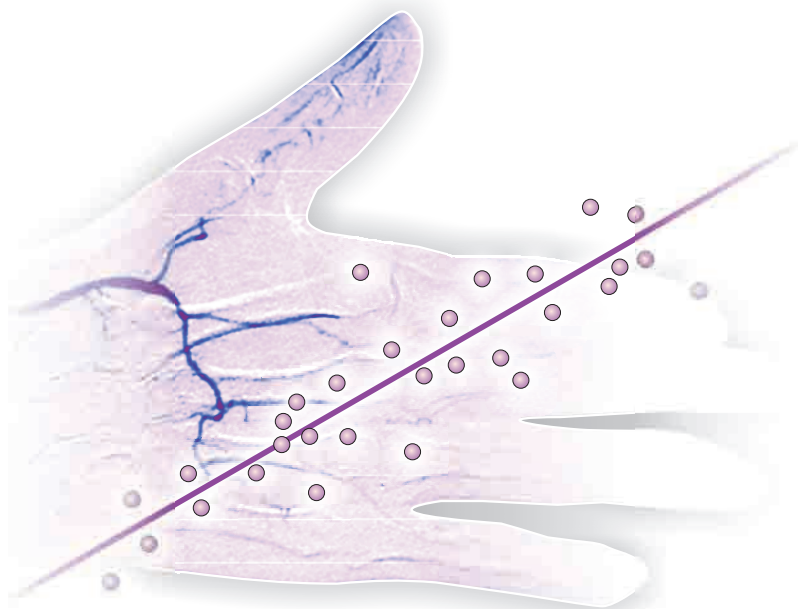


Raynaud's Phenomenon and Peripheral Ischemic Syndromes

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MEDICINE - STATE OF THE ART

UNI-MED Verlag AG, one of the leading medical publishing companies in Germany, presents its highly successful series of scientific textbooks, covering all medical subjects. The authors are specialists in their fields and present the topics precisely, comprehensively, and with the facility of quick reference in mind. The books will be most useful for all doctors who wish to keep up to date with the latest developments in medicine.

We greatly appreciate and acknowledge the collaboration of Dr Shreelata Datta.

Preface

Dear colleagues and readers,

Patients suffering from ischemia of the extremities are not only affected by the resulting pain and risk of superimposed infection, but also from a severe reduction in quality of life and high probability of unemployment. Moreover, the onset of a reduced digital perfusion often indicates a hitherto unknown underlying systemic disease. The most prominent example within this multifaceted group of symptoms and syndromes is Raynaud's phenomenon, which not only can be a pivotal marker for an immunological disease such as systemic sclerosis or systemic lupus erythematosus, it is also a perfect example for the need of a multidisciplinary approach to solve the problems of the affected patients.

Therefore, the authors of this book were challenged by the task to both explain and distinguish the different variations of acral perfusion disorders - resulting in a sometimes differing but also attractive individual point of view.

Owing to the rapidly developing novel therapeutic agents to counteract a reduced acral perfusion, a substantial part of the book is dedicated to an up-to-date summary of the knowledge addressing all aspects of current therapeutic strategies.

We do hope that this book will become an useful companion for the needs of the daily clinical practice and welcome any suggestion and comment.

On behalf of the authors

Bad Nauheim, January 2008

Ulf Müller-Ladner

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Chapter 1.

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