Contents

1 Spin and the MR Phenomenon 1

2 Relaxation 7
T1: Longitudinal Relaxation 7
T2/T2*: Transverse Relaxation 8

3 Image Contrast 11
Repetition Time (TR) and T1-Weighting 12
Echo Time (TE) and T2-Weighting 14
Saturation at Short Repetition Times 17
Flip Angle 18
Presaturation 18
Magnetisation Transfer 19

4 Spatial Encoding 21
Three-Dimensional Spatial Encoding 26
K-Space 27

5 Factors Affecting the Signal-to-Noise Ratio 31
Pixel, Voxel, Matrix 32
Slice Thickness and Bandwidth 32
Field of View and Matrix 34
Number of Measurements 39
Image Parameters 39
Magnetic Field Strength 39
Coils 40

6 **The MR Scanner 43**
Magnets 45
The Gradient System 46
The RF System 47
The Computer 48

7 **Basic Pulse Sequences 49**
Spin-Echo Sequence (SE) 50
Outflow Effect 52
Multislice Imaging 52
Inversion-Recovery Sequence 53
STIR Sequence (Short T1-Inversion Recovery) 55
Gradient-Echo Sequence 55
Multi-Echo Sequences 58

8 **Fast-Pulse Sequences 61**
Fast or Turbo Spin-Echo Sequences 61
SSFSE and HASTE 63
Fast or Turbo Inversion-Recovery Sequences 64
Fast Gradient-Echo Sequences 64
Echo-Planar (EPI) Sequence 64
Hybrid Sequences 65
GRASE (Gradient-Echo and Spin-Echo) 66
Spiral Sequences 66
Echo Time and T2-Contrast in Fast Sequences 66

9 **Parallel Imaging 69**
Background 69
Principles of Parallel Imaging 69
Special Requirements 71
Range of Application 71

10 **Techniques for Imaging the Vascular System 75**
Time-of-Flight Angiography 76

Phase-Contrast Angiography 78
Contrast Enhanced 3D-Angiography 81
Perfusion and Diffusion 83

11 MR Contrast Media 85
Chemical Structure 88
Relaxivity 89
Pharmacological Properties 92
Future Outlook 99

12 Artefacts in the MR Image 101
Movement and Flow Artefacts 101
Phase Wrapping 103
Chemical Shift 105
Susceptibility 106
Truncation Artefacts 107
Magic Angle 107
Line Artefacts ("Zipper-Like Artefacts") 107
Criss-Cross or Herring-Bone Artefacts 108

13 Safety, Risks and Contraindications 109

Glossary 113

Subject Index 125