Preface

Postoperative Joint MR Imaging

It has been my pleasure to serve as guest editor for the current issue of Magnetic Resonance Imaging Clinics of North America entitled, “Postoperative Joint MR Imaging.” Postoperative MR imaging of the joints can be a very challenging endeavor due to artifacts and the altered anatomy that can occur from the various operative procedures that are performed throughout the numerous joints in the body. It is essential to be able to know why these artifacts occur and how they can be minimized using conventional and advanced artifact reduction techniques. The image interpreter should also understand the anatomic changes that occur in joints following surgery. Having a thorough knowledge of the technical considerations, the anatomy, and normal and abnormal imaging appearances throughout the main joints in the body is critical in the management of patients with postoperative joint pain symptoms. In this issue, we present a collection of 10 unique review articles, starting with a comprehensive up-to-date primer on the technical considerations of postoperative MR imaging of joints, followed by a shoulder-to-toe approach toward discussing postoperative MR imaging in the most frequently operated and imaged joints of the body. The authors of these articles are well-respected, national, and international leaders in the field of Musculoskeletal Radiology. I am very grateful and proud of the work that the authors have presented in this issue, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their tremendous effort to make this issue a success. I hope that the readers will find the inciteful discussions and image-rich material provided in these articles to be informative and relevant to daily clinical practice.

Luis S. Beltran, MD
Division of Musculoskeletal Imaging and Intervention
Department of Radiology
Harvard Medical School
Brigham and Women's Hospital
75 Francis Street
Boston, MA 02115, USA

E-mail address: lbeltran@bwh.harvard.edu