

Ocular Tumours

Bertil Damato

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The successful author needs to identify an appropriate gap in the market place and produce a high-quality product to fill that void. The trainee ophthalmologist or general ophthalmologist wanting to know more about ocular tumours in the past has been confronted by a series of excellent comprehensive but large texts which by their very nature can be a little foreboding to the general ophthalmologist or potential examinee.

With the above facts in mind Bertil Damato has produced for us an excellent introduction to the diagnosis and treatment of ocular tumours with a book which is compact yet very comprehensive. In his acknowledgements at the beginning he thanks Jack Kanski for his encouragement in writing the book and certainly there is a 'Kanski style' to the book. As this style has proved very popular among trainees, fellowship candidates will be particularly pleased to find that ocular oncology can now be assimilated in a similar way to other ophthalmological sub-specialities.

The book opens with a well-written chapter regarding examination techniques. This, like the rest of the book, is illustrated beautifully with clinical photographs, various imaging techniques and informative yet simple diagrams.

The majority of the book is taken up by 21 chapters which cover the great variety of conditions which constitute ocular tumours and their differential diagnoses. Individual chapters concentrate on a specific pathological entity. For instance there is a chapter on naevi which covers both iris and choroidal naevi, followed by a chapter on malignant melanoma which covers iris, choroidal and ciliary body melanoma. This layout helps one to understand the pathology of the disease better and enables one to compare and contrast the disease process in different sites of the eye.

Each chapter has a very small section on management which in general refers the reader to the last four chapters, where various treatment techniques are covered in more detail. The layout of the individual chapters is uniform throughout, giving an initial introduction followed by pathology, signs, differential diagnosis and, as mentioned earlier, a few lines on management.

Each chapter is very generously illustrated, which allows the text to be fairly comprehensive yet brief and concise. All chapters are well referenced allowing the reader to explore any minutiae related to any particular condition. The Treatment chapters give a very good overview as to the management of ocular tumours and are particularly well served by the informative diagrams. It is also heartening to see a chapter specifically dedicated to counselling of the patient.

The book's introduction states its aims as providing a clear and concise account of ocular tumours in a very systematic approach. It certainly achieves its objectives. It is a very easily readable book and similarly can easily be dipped into when confronted with a difficult problem, and in this respect the comprehensive high-quality colour photographs can act very much as an atlas in aiding one's diagnosis.

Overall this is an excellent book that would be a very welcome addition to any medical library, and will appeal to any ophthalmologists likely to come into contact with ocular tumours, ophthalmologists in training and oncologists.

C.M. Wood
Sunderland Eye Infirmary