
BOOK REVIEWS

Sports Vision

Edited by D. F. C. Loran and C. J. MacEwen
Butterworth-Heinemann, 1995.

Don Loran and Caroline MacEwen, in co-editing this informative text, have attempted to produce a book which will be of use to a broad range of professionals interested in the visual requirements of those participating in sport. As is the case with any multi-author work, targeted at a multidisciplinary audience, repetition does occur and sections written by different authors using different styles do not always sit comfortably together. The overall effect is, however, good and the contributions from the majority of the 17 recognised authorities in the field ensure that the whole subject gets comprehensive coverage.

Of particular note are the excellent chapters on 'Eye Injuries in Sport' and 'Forensic Sports Vision'. In the former, Nicholas P. Jones reviews factors affecting the types of injuries incurred during sport and comments on the nature of these injuries on a sport-by-sport basis. In addition to informative illustrated plates, Dr Jones includes useful advice on first aid and the early management of ocular trauma. Dr Steve Taylor, in the Forensic Sports Vision chapter, stresses the importance which should be attributed to the provision of appropriate appliances and optometric advice to sporting participants. He also deals with the subject of negligence from several different standpoints and his comments on the precautions which should be taken by all those providing sports vision advice are particularly pertinent. The section on 'Eye Protectors', which is essentially well written and illustrated, complements the section on 'Sports Vision Correction'. Nathan Efron provides a particularly good review on the indications and contra-indications for various types of contact lenses in the sporting arena. One of the most impressive sections in the text deals with sports lighting. Dr Neil Charman comprehensively deals with the basic characteristics of light sources and filters. His overview of photometric terminology is particularly beneficial. This section is also particularly well referenced.

Of particular note was the chapter on 'Sports for the Visually Impaired'. The chapter, written by Ian Fells, a former director of the British Blind Sports

Association, is refreshing and it is particularly encouraging to see this special section having been included in the book. The chapter provides an overview of the origins of visually impaired sports and deals with some of the thorny issues concerning integration and the classification of disability. In the appendices to the chapter the rules of 'goal ball', a sport specifically developed for the visually impaired, are outlined. The chapter on 'Visual Performance Enhancement', although slightly long-winded, deals effectively with some concepts which may be less familiar to the reader. Visual processing speeds, dynamic acuity and biofeedback are all explained within the chapter.

In contrast to those chapters referred to above are those on 'Vision Requirements in Sport' and 'Setting up a Sports Vision Practice'. These chapters are less well structured and some of the information included tends to be superfluous and repetitive. The concluding chapter on 'The Future of Sports Vision' is lightweight and has little substance. The book concludes with a glossary of terminology which highlights the difficulties facing editors who would seek to produce a book which will be of benefit to those from varied professional backgrounds. The respective definitions of binocular and Pulfrich phenomena are striking examples of simplicity and complexity contrasted.

In conclusion, the text represents an important addition to the libraries of those likely to be called upon to advise patients on vision and sport. The book benefits from multi-author input although several of the chapters are repetitive. It is a reasonable investment at £45.

A. J. Jackson

Fundus Fluorescein Angiography

Amresh Chopdar
Butterworth-Heinemann, Oxford, 1996.

Good medical textbooks in my experience fall into two groups: those that you feel immediately comfortable with and can browse and dip into with ease, and those others which take a little longer to get into but ultimately prove to be indispensable. This textbook easily falls into the first group. It is well written, has fantastic illustrations and is very readable. The author has for several years run a course

on fluorescein angiography, and this is reflected in a well-organised book with many helpful, practical hints.

The book is divided into 13 chapters, together with three appendices and an index. The first three chapters cover the basic principles of fluorescein angiography, and the practical anatomy of the retina and optic nerves, and blood supply. The actual technique of photographing the fundus is described in detail and an interesting selection of 'duff' photographs are included, with explanations as to how these might be avoided. This section in itself may make this book worth buying, to save money from wasted photographic film.

The normal angiogram and its variations are shown and different causes of abnormal fluorescence are shown, together with a very useful full-page flowchart for hypo- and hyperfluorescence. Thereafter the remaining chapters show various examples of ocular pathology. Throughout the book the fundus photographs and angiograms are of a very high standard, as is essential in a book of this sort, and clearly illustrate the various abnormal conditions described. Each chapter is provided with a full list of further reading and some key references, which are enough for a book of this size but would not be enough if a detailed reference list were required.

The final chapter describes the new opportunities with digital imaging, but unfortunately does not show

any examples. The three appendices list the requirements of a fluorescein angiography room and the contents of a resuscitation trolley, which are a useful reminder of the rare but serious adverse reactions that can occur with angiography. The final appendix gives some brief information about laser photocoagulation and laser burns.

If I do have criticisms these are only minor. I think it would have been nice to have had a chapter on indocyanin green angiography, which is topical at present and the subject of considerable interest. Also, in a book predominantly aimed at ophthalmologists I think it might have been helpful to spell out the basics of cardiopulmonary resuscitation in the appendix dealing with the resuscitation trolley. Serious adverse reactions are rare, but all of us involved with fluorescein angiography need to be competent at dealing with emergencies.

Overall I think this is an excellent book which would be a useful addition to any Department. In particular it has a good practical feel to it which would allow budding fundus photographers to improve their results with the minimum of time and expense to the Department in terms of wasted films! I think the junior ophthalmologist will also find this book a very good way of revising important retinovascular conditions, and will soon become adept at interpreting and reporting fluorescein angiograms.

J. M. Gibson