

O'Connor Davies's Ophthalmic Drugs: Diagnostic and Therapeutic Uses, 4th edition

G.A. Hopkins and R.M. Pearson
Butterworth-Heinemann, Oxford, 1998,
£32.50, ISBN 0 7506 2966 5

This edition is in paperback and has a clear modern format that is easy on the eye. However, much of the text remains unchanged from the previous 1989 hardback edition, particularly in the initial chapters, although additional inclusions do appear in the references. The opening chapters deal with the basic principles of pharmacology and microbiology and the reference section has been updated. Parts of the text on ophthalmic dosage forms make interesting reading (e.g. drop contact time related to viscosities). The diagnostic chapters discuss the use of

cycloplegics, mydriatics, local anaesthetics and stains in practical detail for both clinical practitioner and optometrist, and whilst references have been updated the opportunity was missed to remove outdated drug monographs. The chapter discussing treatment of infections and inflammation has much new material including the use of fluoroquinolones, with 11 related references some as recent as 1995. Whilst the section on glaucoma has been updated to include newer drugs, many miotics are listed which have no place in current therapy. Glaucoma drug details and possible adverse effects are expressed in a table whilst the future role of prostaglandin analogues is dealt with in the text. Although the newer drugs brimonidine and latanoprost gain entry to the table, data on them is minimal.

Information on the various artificial tears is usefully concise, whilst the discussion of contact lens solutions has been expanded to include the multipurpose solutions supported by data from recent publications (1996 and 1997).

In the final chapter, the range of systemic drugs causing adverse ocular reactions has been extended but no new actions or mechanisms are identified.

The strengths of this book are in the diagnostic rather than therapeutic areas of drug use and it should prove a useful reference source, particularly to optometrists.

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