

An Interactive Guide to Eye Movement Disorders. Volume 1

Global Medical Education and Training, PO Box 1256, Belfast East, Northern Ireland (<http://www.gmet.net>), 1999, £59.00

This CD-ROM, prepared by Mr J.E. Moore and Mr A.B. Page from the Eye Department in Belfast, is an excellent guide to ocular motility abnormalities occurring in the context of neuro-ophthalmic diseases.

Each condition is illustrated with video clips and details on clinical features, anatomy and management, and in addition each section contains self-assessment questions to allow the reader to check on their understanding of what he or she has read.

The coverage is comprehensive and illustrates all major eye movement anomalies including nystagmus, nystagmus-like syndromes, cranial nerve palsies and other forms of ocular motility defects. The video clips in particular are extremely well prepared and can be rerun over and over again in order that the student can fully understand what is being shown; there is also a commentary in text form explaining what is being seen, so the information is highly educational.

I have not seen any similar product that matches the standard of this CD-ROM, and feel that it is a major contribution to education in this area. Inevitably any reviewer will find a few minor areas of disagreement, mainly in the area of management. There is very little information about bilateral IVth nerve palsy, which is an entity frequently under-diagnosed by neurologists, and it would have been helpful if that could have been illustrated. There is also nothing suggesting superior oblique plication is a useful procedure in IVth nerve palsy.

The authors seem to be a little keen on neuroimaging every cranial nerve palsy. Most clinicians confronted with an isolated cranial nerve palsy, especially in an older patient, would not image unless there was no sign of recovery at 3 months, and would not image IVth nerve palsies at all.

Regarding VIth nerve palsy, most people nowadays feel that the use of botulinum toxin in acute VIth nerve palsy may be symptomatically helpful, but there is no demonstrable effect on the long-term outcome. The authors recommend for unrecovered VIth nerve palsy a complete transposition of the

vertical rectus muscles plus a medial rectus recession on the same eye. This is likely to lead to anterior segment ischaemia in an adult, and is probably not a very good idea.

Finally there are two or three minor irritating spelling mistakes which might have been picked up by a slightly more alert proof reader.

Nevertheless I must emphasise this is a most valuable guide and should find a place in every department of ophthalmology and orthoptics because of the excellent and comprehensive choice and arrangement of material and illustration, and I recommend it warmly.

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ABC of Eyes, 3rd edition

P.T. Khaw and A.R. Elkington
BMJ Publications, London, 1999,
61 pages with colour illustrations

The third edition of this book builds on the strengths of the previous editions in presenting a symptom-led approach to the diagnosis and management of common eye disorders. This approach to the subject lends itself well to the current emphasis on problem-based learning in the undergraduate medical curriculum.

The authors have achieved the very difficult task of summarising the subject of ophthalmology in a concise 61-page volume admirably well. A very useful chapter on history and examination precedes 11 other chapters, which are all well illustrated in full colour. The composite drawings in the chapters on 'The red eye', 'Injuries to the eye' and 'Acute visual disturbance' serve as remarkable *aide-memoires* for common conditions underlying these presentations for the student. The tables with bulleted points highlighting essential points are excellent. The content is remarkably 'cutting edge' including mention of the common techniques of refractive surgery and cataract surgery. There are, however, some features that could be improved. Some of the colour photographs are not reproduced well, the pixellation of the images is obvious; better reproduction would have enhanced their value. The reader who wants to explore the subject further would have appreciated a short list of suggested further reading. Some guidance about what information to give a patient for common conditions such as blepharitis, glaucoma and cataract would be a useful addition.

Overall, this is a very useful introduction to ophthalmology. I have no hesitation in suggesting that it should be a 'must have' for medical students and those who serve as a first port of call for patients with eye problems, i.e. general practitioners, casualty officers and optometrists.

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Clinical Optics, 3rd edition

A.R. Elkington, H.J. Frank and
M.J. Greaney
Blackwell Science, Oxford, 1999, £24.99,
ISBN 0 632 04989 8

An update of *Clinical Optics* has been long overdue – it has been 8 years since the last edition, during which time the applications of optics have greatly expanded in ophthalmology. The third edition is slightly larger in dimensions with larger print and more subdivision of chapters facilitating scanning of the text. The addition of a third author has not changed the original style of the book, which remains lucid and easy to read.

The new version has several expanded or new sections including colour vision testing and anomalies, indocyanine green angiography, potential acuity meters, laser interferometry, visual acuity testing in children, contrast sensitivity and glare testing. The chapters on reflection and refraction of light and prisms are essentially the same as previously, with the notable addition of notes on vector addition of prisms and Risley prisms – which always seem to be asked about in multiple choice question papers!

The chapters on spherical and astigmatic lenses also remain largely unchanged while the chapter on optical prescriptions and spectacle lenses has an addendum which includes tinted lenses, ultraviolet filters, photochromic lenses and anti-reflective coatings. The chapter on ocular aberrations is similar with the exception of an expansion on oblique astigmatism and the chapter on refraction by the eye is expanded by an explanation of the accommodative convergence ratio.

In the chapter on the optics of ametropia there is a new section which includes an explanation of the SRK II formula, the mechanism of A-scans and a brief introduction to multifocal lenses. The chapter on presbyopia also now includes an expansion on bifocal lenses and prismatic effects. New instruments

are added to the instruments chapter including an expansion on Placidos disc, keratometers, corneal topography, the non-contact tonometer, ultrasonic pachymetry, specular microscopy, ocular coherence tomography and photoscreening.

The laser chapter is also new, with a brief update on new lasers and investigative applications in ophthalmology. There are two more entirely new chapters on contact lenses and refractive surgery. The contact lens chapter gives a very simple and basic

introduction to contact lens use and could be expanded, while the refractive surgery chapter is more comprehensive and gives more detailed explanations about the techniques available. The low vision aid chapter could also be expanded to describe different types of aids.

Throughout, the book retains the concise and easily understandable approach which made it an essential revision text for the optics component of the FRCOphth and MRCOphth. It benefits considerably from the improved

layout, with reorganisation of text and addition of some new illustrations. Though there could be expanded explanations on some topics, overall the improvements are helpful both in making the text more comprehensive as a reference text alone and also as an invaluable revision aid for the part two MRCOphth.

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