

Schepens's Retinal Detachment and Allied Eye Diseases

Charles L. Schepens, Mary Elizabeth Hartnett and Tatsuo Hirose.
Butterworth-Heinemann, Oxford, 2000,
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The second edition of this large text (764 pages) by one of the founders of retinal surgery along with two co-authors is extensive and authoritative, as stated in the Foreword. It is also a personal view derived from the author's own extensive experience, as stated in the Preface.

The book is well laid out in nine parts, with good illustrations, diagrams and extensive references at the end of each chapter. Areas covered include history, anatomy, pathogenesis, classification, examination, differential diagnosis, prophylaxis, surgical techniques, proliferative vitreoretinopathy, giant retinal tears, macular holes, retinoschisis, vitreoretinopathies, optic nerve related retinal detachments, paediatric retinal detachments, including ROP, lens management, retinal detachment in uveitis, choroidal detachments, tumours, diabetic vitrectomy, trauma, vitreous substitutes, complications, and a chapter on detachments from other causes such as Coats' disease, miliary

retinal aneurysms, uveal effusion and others. The only significant omission I noted was that there is no mention of surgery for macular choroidal new vessels, although there was a brief mention of foveal translocation surgery in the surgical section.

Most chapters are well written with extensive references, and some chapters are excellent, although one might question the relevance of the chapter on pre-operative evaluation and management of patients with hypertension, congestive cardiac failure, valvular disease and diabetes mellitus. Being an American publication the book reflects practice trends in the United States, with follow-up of many lesions, such as asymptomatic retinal breaks, and the favouring of C₃F₈ over silicone oil for many cases.

The book is a personal view and many vitreoretinal surgeons will disagree with some of the theories put forward on pathogenesis of conditions such as giant retinal tears and macular holes, as well as the surgical techniques favoured with an emphasis towards the philosophy of cryotherapy and buckle first and vitrectomy second, and the avoidance of the use of silicone oil. There are a few areas of ambiguity in the text, such as the role of buckling in giant

retinal tears and what to buckle, as well as when to laser when using heavy liquids. There are also unusual suggestions such as the use of silicone oil to coat a silicone intraocular lens to prevent condensation, and a suggestion to buckle a scleral perforation that has not caused a retinal perforation. There is no mention of pigment in the vitreous as a sign of retinal tears and no discussion of the timing of removal of intraocular foreign bodies, and only a brief mention of the DACE procedure.

There are many useful case discussions with consideration of management options, which are well illustrated.

Despite these minor criticisms, which one could level at any text, overall this is an excellent reference text, covering almost all aspects of vitreoretinal surgery, many of which, such as trauma are large enough to warrant text books in their own right. The book covers the subject well and is excellently referenced. It will be a useful addition to the bookshelf of any vitreoretinal surgeon in training or practice.

*James West
Royal Hallamshire Hospital
Sheffield, UK*