BOOK REVIEW

Diseases of the Macula: A Practical Approach

JACK.J.KANSKI & STANISLAW.A.MILEWSKI
Mosby International Limited

Despite great advances in medicine, macular diseases still remain a very common cause for severe visual impairment particularly in the elderly. A practical and didactic approach to the management of macular disease is essential as a quick reference to the practicing specialist as well as the novice trainee.

In this book the term ‘macula’ is used quite liberally. The authors have included a variety of commonly encountered macular diseases as well as those that have an indirect bearing on the macular function such as vascular and inflammatory diseases.

The first introductory chapter covers briefly but comprehensively the applied anatomy of the macula, and touches on the relevant aspects of clinical evaluation. Investigatory modalities such as fundus fluorescein angiography, indocyanine green angiography and electrophysiological tests are described. However newer modalities such as optical coherence tomography, macular microperimetry and fundus autofluorescence imaging have not been covered.

The body of this book is divided into four sections: Acquired macular diseases, vascular diseases, inflammatory fundus disorders and heredomacular fundus dystrophies. The beginning of each chapter gives a list of the disorders covered in order of clinical importance. Relevant aspects of history, heredity, symptomatology and clinical features are covered in the usual crisp and comprehensive format with beautiful fundus photographs and illustrative line diagrams. The various management options are discussed briefly but succinctly and the conclusion is short and relevant. This book can be used as a ready reckoner for post graduate students as well as practicing ophthalmologists.

Clinical Pathways In Vitreoretinal Diseases

Scott.M.Steidl & Mary Elizabeth Hartnett
Thieme Publications

Development of a clinical pathway is absolutely essential for the assessment and treatment of patients with a similar diagnosis. In this text book the authors have successfully assembled a group of accomplished vitreoretinal specialists to write clinical algorithms for the assessment and treatment of vitreoretinal diseases.

The format of this book has certain unique characteristics. The book is divided into 5 sections. The first section on history, physical examination and diagnosis poses key questions for a focused history, gives clues on sorting out a possible diagnosis from the history, and how to expand on the primary complaint.
to get to the diagnosis. Clinical examination of the ocular fundus and the section on how to use the instruments for examination of the posterior segment are relevant and useful to both general ophthalmologists and vitreoretinal surgeons alike.

The remaining section deals with commonly encountered clinical findings such as areas of whitening in the fundus, pigmented lesions, hemorrhages etc. The text makes use of evidence based medicine to develop management strategies. Decision trees and descriptions in the text highlight these strategies. The decision trees present a focused ‘yes-or-no’ approach to a problem and will definitely have a role in aiding current and future eye care specialists in managing the daunting challenges posed by vitreoretinal diseases. This publication present a broad glimpse of what is new and current in the field of vitreoretinal disease management and will help as a tool to navigate this rapidly changing field providing us with a glimpse of the road ahead.