Emerging roles of topical non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents in ophthalmology

Editor,—I have read with great interest the review of Mr Koay, entitled "The emerging roles of topical non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents in ophthalmology". This article is well designed and documented but your large audience in the UK and continental Europe deserves fuller information on NSAIDs. Apart from a mistake in the introduction (diclofenac 1% (Voltarol) is fact 0.1%), any article on atherectomy requires that your readers' complete information to mention a solution of indomethacin 0.1% (Laboratoire Chauvin) developed for ophthalmic use. It is a lyophilised product now registered in the major parts of Europe, Canada, and some countries of Asia and Africa. This drug has been evaluated in controlled clinical studies versus placebo, flurbiprofen, diclofenac, and indomethacin 1% suspension.** Both formulations of indomethacin are useful and effective. The 0.1% solution seems better tolerated. I hope these remarks will be helpful.

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BOOK REVIEWS


Ophthalmic plastic and reconstructive surgery and oculoplastic surgery are terms used synonymously to describe the sub-speciality within ophthalmology that deals with eyelid, lacrimal, and orbital problems. A number of ophthalmic surgeons, particularly in the USA, are well recognised for their contributions towards establishing this area of subspecialist expertise and Clinton McCord, the founding editor of this text, is pre-eminent in this field.

Oculoplastic surgery, now in its third edition, is essentially a clinical text intended for a wide range of clinicians with an interest in eyelid, lacrimal, and orbital surgery. The text is laid out in a clear and logical fashion with appropriate emphasis upon commonly encountered oculoplastic problems and the management thereof. It is a clearly written and comprehensive textbook and the recurring theme of 'emphasis of practical points' is maintained throughout the text by the contributors. Each chapter is fully referenced, but division of each reference section would have been particularly useful for rapid access.

Oculoplastic and reconstructive surgery is a rapidly expanding discipline which makes a comprehensive summary at any particular moment in time extremely difficult. I would like to have seen the use of levator surgery and botulinum toxin chemonervenovation included in the chapter on the management of facial palsy as these treatment modalities are well established in this disorder. A chapter on lacrimal disorders is, to my mind, incomplete without discussing the role of modern imaging techniques such as computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging. Similarly, the significant advantage of nasal endoscopy as both a diagnostic and therapeutic tool is a noteworthy omission. None of these less, with these few reservations in mind the authors are to be commended for achieving an extremely comprehensive and informative text.

The general presentation of oculoplastic surgery is good, the paper quality and printing are of good quality and the text is packed with useful illustrations and diagrams. The latter, presumably for reasons of cost, are all in black and white; this occasionally detracts from an otherwise uniformly high quality of presentation, but does not materially affect the reader's appreciation of this fine book.

Oculoplastic Surgery is a mine of information and useful tips and I found it a pleasure to read. It certainly has a great deal to offer clinicians interested in the subspecialty of eyelid, lacrimal, and orbital disorders. As such I feel it is an essential text for libraries and should be high on the list of indispensable textbooks for the individual purchaser with an interest in oculoplastic surgery.


This textbook will be most welcome to a large number of surgeons, not only specialist ophthalmic plastic and lacrimal surgeons, but a large category of ophthalmologists who have recourse to assess patients and manage their lacrimal problems. Unlike many of the shorter texts that deal with the management of the more common problems, this book directs you as a reader through basic anatomy of the lacrimal system and surrounding facial structures, and details the physiology, biochemistry, and basic pathology. Practical surgical management is of the essence and reflects the wide experience and depth of knowledge of the main author and editor. He has resorted to assistance from co-authors when elaboration has been required. Practical advice would appear to be available on every aspect of lacrimal pathology and surgery. He has described his surgical technique which has developed over many years and reflects experience gained both in the UK and Canada. Little of his discussion is controversial, but he might find limited support for the use of his "pigtail" probe when dealing with trauma cases; however, only very rarely do lacrimal surgeons agree emphatically on technique! The surgery described in this book will be of value to every possible level of readership.

The definitive chapters on surgical technique have a novel introduction and an excellent and balanced view of all current variations. Included in this section is a description of various styles of anaesthesia and relevant anaesthetic agents. It is impressive how the author has managed to describe the role of lacrimal surgery within the context of other relevant surgical disciplines.

My only concern in the book's preparation would be the somewhat erratic quality of illustrations: many of these have been produced by permission from other publishers and while obviously presenting a familiar visual pattern to the reader, it does lead to an inconsistency of style. Also, some of the photographic reproductions have not been conducive to clear and concise printing and many of the photographs appear underexposed.

I would therefore recommend that all interested parties should concentrate not so much on the style of presentation, but the content of this excellent textbook which I think should be established very quickly as a standard text for most medical libraries.

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NOTICES

Hong Kong Ophthalmological Symposium '96

The Hong Kong Ophthalmological Symposium '96 on retinal disease will take place on 14-15 December 1996 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center. Further details from Dr Barry Young, Symposium Secretary, Hong Kong Ophthalmological Society, University Eye Centre, 3/F, Hong Kong Eye Hospital, 147K Argyle Street, Kowloon, Hong Kong. (Tel: 2761 9128; Fax: 2715 0089.)