Cataract lens extraction and posterior chamber lens implantation in Korean subjects

EDITOR—We read with interest the article by Kee and Moon1 who provided interesting data on the effect of cataract removal on outflow facility and intraocular pressure (IOP). We have been interested for some time in the effect of ocular surgery upon measured IOP.2 Previous studies have shown a reduction in IOP after cataract surgery3 and have suggested implications for combined cataract and filtering surgery. To assess change in outflow facility Kee and Moon utilised pneumotonometry. However, this technique has been shown to give low reproducibility as a tonograp

BOOK REVIEWS

LASIK Complications: Prevention and Management. Howard V Gimbel, Ellen E Anderson Penno. £79.95. New Jersey: Slack Incorporated, 2000. ISBN 1556424736. LASIK requires meticulous planning and rigorous attention to detail in preparation as the technology is very precise and there is little room for improvisation within the practice of the procedure. To learn such a technique can be challenging especially when it is to be performed upon a group of patients demanding perfection, and also under the pressure of a time limit. It is, therefore, most gratifying to see a book published by authors who have a strong track record in LASIK and refractive surgery, and who have published their own learning curves in peer reviewed journals.

The book is presented in two sections. The first deals with the machinery, patient selection, performance of the surgery, and perioperative management. The second is the authors' selection of case reports of patients who were less than straightforward and provides an instant (pain free) learning experience.

Section 1 begins with a brief history of excimer lasers and microkeratome technology, including the individual foibles of each instrument. Patient selection (who is suitable and, importantly, who is not), examination, and documentation are well covered, and examples of appropriate data collection forms, to permit the essential audit of one's own data, are presented.

The individual parts of the LASIK procedure are well documented with clear and helpful colour photographic illustrations. Advice is well directed so that the reader may make correct patient selection, counsel patients realistically, acquire a slick technique, and deliver thoughtful aftercare. It is the intention to put the surgeon and, thus, the patient at ease.

The text addresses the surgical minutiae that are most important to success. The techniques and tips are appropriate, and expectations realistic given the limitations of the technique in its current form. The avoidance of technical difficulties is particularly strongly stressed, but, in the event, the management is dealt with simply and without embarrassment. Advice is well directed so that the reader may make correct patient selection, counsel patients realistically, acquire a slick technique, and deliver thoughtful aftercare. It is the intention to put the surgeon and, thus, the patient at ease.

The authors advise on other modalities of refractive surgery which may be more appropriate. Surgical complications such as free caps, thin flaps, incomplete passes of the microkeratome, etc are included. Individual case reports of LASIK in patients who previously underwent epikeratophakia and penetrating keratoplasty are included as worked examples. I felt the cases were most helpful, but the layout of the refractive/visual data might have been more accessible if tabulated—there is plenty of space.

In summary, I think this is a most valuable book for both the aspiring and experienced LASIK surgeon, and will help in the early learning curve and “gathering experience” stage. Advice is well directed so that the reader may make correct patient selection, counsel patients realistically, acquire a slick technique, and deliver thoughtful aftercare. It is the intention to put the surgeon and, thus, the patient at ease.

The text addresses the surgical minutiae that are most important to success. The techniques and tips are appropriate, and expectations realistic given the limitations of the technique in its current form. The avoidance of technical difficulties is particularly strongly stressed but, in the event, the management is dealt with simply and without embarrassment—after all every one has a learning curve. The book therefore acts as a reliable tutor during this period. Nevertheless, there is no true substitute for hands-on experience, although it can be reassuring that the book provides support and knowledge that someone has been there before and can provide some reassurance, and evidence based advice in adversity.

I did not think that this book was especially directed at the advanced surgeon, although they will find useful material and techniques which are particularly address to more complex conditions and retreatment options.

The authors have no proprietary or commercial interest in the findings presented.

ANDREW RILEY
CHRISTINA GRUPCHEVA
CHARLES McGhee
Discipline of Ophthalmology, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland, New Zealand

Correspondence to: Professor C N J McGhee
c.mcghee@auckland.ac.nz

It is clearly presented and readable with plenty of relevant information without being too dry. There are good illustrations and references. The extended characters set proofing errors (‘L’ for ‘c’ substitutions) within the guest contributor section are not too confusing. The non-specialist would benefit from this book to those wishing to take up LASIK, and for the general reader who wants to know what this surgery involves. Would it, however, be a substitute for a supervisor/trainer during your first few cases? I am not sure. Anyway, for your own confidence, read it before you start and you will not go far wrong.

J A SCOTT


To a non-ophthalmic oncologist this book was a delight to read. The script, illustrations, and format made for light work, without losing emphasis, on referencing statements made and the background correlations. Illustration, particularly enjoyable the emphasis on echography) and histology. The book begins with basic examination techniques, and then covers each tissue from conjunctiva to retina with the anomalies that occur at these sites (starting logically with the most common first!). There are, additionally, dedicated chapters on lymphoid tumours, metastasis, and paraneoplastic syndromes. An enjoyable extra for the non-specialist are the chapters on treatments including radiotherapy, surgery, and phototherapy. This book needs no further review except to say I think it meets its aims in delivering well written, enjoyable, general information regarding the diagnosis and management of ocular tumours to the non-specialist.

ANDREW DICK


This small handbook was meant to provide “a differential diagnosis for those who provide eye care”. The book is divided into 10 chapters: Essentials of anatomy and physiology, Examination techniques, alternative perimetric tests, extraneous factors affecting the visual field, visual pathways, differential diagnosis, glaucoma, screening, defect quantification, practical advice, and instrumentation. The author urges novice perimetrists to start at the beginning where the text is designed to refresh at their leisure. A short glossary is available to help interpret perimetric jargon.

Revisions made from the 1993 edition deal with new developments that are now commercially available: newer thresholding strategies (Swedish Interactive Thresholding Algorithms, Tendency Oriented Perimetry, FASTPAC), new instrumentation, alternative techniques (short wavelength automated perimetry, frequency doubling technology perimetry), and well thought out information and clinical advice on monitoring for progressive loss. Of particular interest are the screening and defect quantification sections that present a thorough, balanced synopsis of facts that can take years to assimilate from abundant perimetric literature. The only serious shortcoming is the brevity of the book does not allow the author to go into any great detail about any topic; indeed, some topics are described in such short detail that they are badly misrepresented. For example, on page 162 the description of blind sight consists of just a few sentences and leaves the reader to believe that a significant number of patients with damage to the visual cortex can consistently identify objects from the so-called “blind field.” This grossly misrepresents an area of research that has occupied hundreds of investigators over the past decade or so. Similarly is the statement that the visual cortex is plastic enough that patients who have been congenitally blind can use neurons in the visual cortex for the sense of touch. This is presented as a single sentence and the citation to justify this point of view is not a primary scientific publication but an opinion piece and in my mind, most seriously, most of the references to be found at the end of the chapters of this book are older than five years. Considering how short the half life is of new information in the field of vision research no serious attempt to present an overview of vision research could depend on so many references that are clearly outdated.

Having stated the above, however, I want to recommend this book as a review of what every ophthalmologist, medical student, and vision scientist can thoroughly enjoy. It is an absolutely good read. It should be viewed not as the author views it as a review of basic eye and vision research but as a straightforward description of the phenomenonology of the eye, vision, and the visual brain. It is clearly written and in most cases beautifully illustrated. Regrettably, some of the black and white illustrations, particularly those taken from a secondary source, are unclear. If the author does revise the textbook, one hopes that these illustrations will be improved in subsequent editions. The text is easily read in a single sitting and, at the end of


This relatively short single authored book states that its aim is “to survey the major concepts underlying many of the findings of the basic sciences related to the organization of the visual brain”. The justification for this is given that the explosion of information in the field of basic eye and vision research prevents eye clinicians, students, and scientists from other fields being aware of the literature. The author is quite clear that he intends to use everyday language to describe theoretical and laboratory concepts. The book is divided into two major parts, the first is entitled “The Eye”, in which the sub-chapters are: The Young Eye, The Image Of The Adult Human Eye, Eyes Of Different Animals, The Healing Eye, Refractive Errors Of The Human Eye: A Sociologic Viewpoint, and Eye Communication.

The second part of the book is entitled Curing Eye Disease. It succeeds where other texts fail by providing relevant information for both the uninitiated and “readers” of visual field test results. It succeeds where other texts fail by providing relevant information for both the uninitiated and the highly experienced. The relaxed but concise writing style makes the book a delightful continual read that serves equally well for quick reference. One admirable detail is provided that will satisfy all but the most curious, who are provided with comprehensive and well selected references.

The text is intuitively divided into 11 digestible chapters, covering psychophysics, examination strategies, alternative perimetric tests, extraneous factors affecting the visual field, visual pathways, differential diagnosis, glaucoma, screening, defect quantification, practical advice, and instrumentation. The author urges novice perimetrists to start at the beginning where the text is designed to refresh at their leisure. A short glossary is available to help interpret perimetric jargon.

Revisions made from the 1993 edition deal with new developments that are now commercially available: newer thresholding strategies (Swedish Interactive Thresholding Algorithms, Tendency Oriented Perimetry, FASTPAC), new instrumentation, alternative techniques (short wavelength automated perimetry, frequency doubling technology perimetry), and well thought out information and clinical advice on monitoring for progressive loss. Of particular interest are the screening and defect quantification sections that present a thorough, balanced synopsis of facts that can take years to assimilate from abundant perimetric literature. The only serious shortcoming is the brevity of the book does not allow the author to go into any great detail about any topic; indeed, some topics are described in such short detail that they are badly misrepresented. For example, on page 162 the description of blind sight consists of just a few sentences and leaves the reader to believe that a significant number of patients with damage to the visual cortex can consistently identify objects from the so-called “blind field.” This grossly misrepresents an area of research that has occupied hundreds of investigators over the past decade or so. Similarly is the statement that the visual cortex is plastic enough that patients who have been congenitally blind can use neurons in the visual cortex for the sense of touch. This is presented as a single sentence and the citation to justify this point of view is not a primary scientific publication but an opinion piece and in my mind, most seriously, most of the references to be found at the end of the chapters of this book are older than five years. Considering how short the half life is of new information in the field of vision research no serious attempt to present an overview of vision research could depend on so many references that are clearly outdated.

Having stated the above, however, I want to recommend this book as a review of what every ophthalmologist, medical student, and vision scientist can thoroughly enjoy. It is an absolutely good read. It should be viewed not as the author views it as a review of basic eye and vision research but as a straightforward description of the phenomenonology of the eye, vision, and the visual brain. It is clearly written and in most cases beautifully illustrated. Regrettably, some of the black and white illustrations, particularly those taken from a secondary source, are unclear. If the author does revise the textbook, one hopes that these illustrations will be improved in subsequent editions. The text is easily read in a single sitting and, at the end of

www.bjophthalmol.com
NOTICES

Vision 2020: cataract outcomes
The latest issue of Community Eye Health (35) discusses cataract surgery outcome. For further information please contact Community Eye Health, Institute of Ophthalmology, 11–13 Bath Street, London EC1V 9EL. Tel: (+44) (0) 20-7608 6009/6010/6023; fax: (+44) (0) 7250 3207; email: eyeresource@ucl.ac.uk
Annual subscription £25. Free to workers in developing countries.

Second Sight
Second Sight, a UK based charity whose aims are to eliminate the backlog of cataract blind in India by the year 2020 and to establish strong links between Indian and British ophthalmologists, will be sending volunteer surgeons to India early in 2001. Details can be found at the charity website at www.secondsight.org.uk or by contacting Dr Lucy Mathen, email: lucymathen@yahoo.com.

Residents’ Foreign Exchange Programme
Any resident interested in spending a period of up to one month in departments of ophthalmology in the Netherlands, Finland, Ireland, Germany, Denmark, France, Austria, or Portugal should apply to: Mr Robert Acheson, European Board of Ophthalmology, Institute of Ophthalmology, University College Dublin, 60 Eccles Street, Dublin 7, Ireland.

First International Congress on Non-Penetrating Glaucoma Surgery
The First International Congress on Non-Penetrating Glaucoma Surgery will take place in Lausanne, Switzerland on 1–2 February 2001. Further details: Dr Tarek Shaarawy, Organising Committee, University of Lausanne, Hospital Ophthalmique Jules Gonin, Avenue de France 15, 1004 Lausanne, Switzerland (tel: 41 21 626 81 11; fax: 41 21 626 88 88; website: www.glaucoma-lausanne.org).

Optometry
Optometry 01 Optometry 01 will take place on 21–23 April 2001 with more than 100 events—lectures and workshops—at the Atrium Gallery, NEC, Birmingham, UK. Further details: tel: 020 7261 9661; email: info@optometry01.co.uk; website: www.optometry01.co.uk.

14th Annual Meeting of German Ophthalmic Surgeons
The 14th Annual Meeting of German Ophthalmic Surgeons will be held in Poznan, Poland on 5–6 April 2001. Further details: Professor Kryksta Pecold, Katedra I Klinika Okuciel, ul Duga 1/2, 61-848 Poznan, Poland (tel/fax: 004861-8527619) or Professor Ingrid Kreissig, Univ-Augenklinik, Schleisschtraße 12, D-72076 Tuebingen, Germany (fax: 49-7071-293746; email: ingrid.kreissig@uni-tuebingen.de).

European Association for the Study of Diabetic Eye Complications (EASDEC)
The next meeting of the European Association for the Study of Diabetic Eye Complications (EASDEC) will be held in Paris, France, on 19–20 May 2001. Further details: Colloquium, 12 Rue de la Croix Faubin, 75 557 Paris Cedex 11, France (tel: +33-1-44 64 15 15; fax: +33-1-44 64 15 10; email: s.mundler@colloquium.fr).

American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine—Millennium Ultrasound Course Series
A course entitled “Obstetrical and Gynecological Ultrasound” will be held in New York City, NY, on 24–26 August 2001. Further details: Stacey Blessing, Public Relations Coordinator, AIUM, 14750 Sweitzer Lane, Suite 100, Laurel, MD 20707-5906, USA (tel: 301-498-4100; email: sblessing@aium.org).

31st Cambridge Ophthalmological Symposium
The 31st Cambridge Ophthalmological Symposium will be held 3–5 September 2001 at St John’s College Cambridge. The subject is Retinal Detachment. Further details: COS Secretariat, Cambridge Conferences, The Lawn, 33 Church Street, Great Shelford, Cambridge CB2 5EL, UK (tel: 01223 847464; fax: 01223 847465; email: b.ashworth@easynet.co.uk).

4th International Conference on the Adjuvant Therapy of Malignant Melanoma
The 4th International Conference on the adjuvant therapy of malignant melanoma will be held at The Royal College of Physicians, London on 15–16 March 2002. Further details: Conference Secretariat, CCI Ltd, 2 Palmerston Court, Palmerston Way, London SW8 4AJ, UK (tel: +44 (0)20 7720 0600; fax: +44 (0)20 7720 7177; email: melanoma@confcomm.co.uk; website: www.confcomm.co.uk/Melanoma).

International Society for Behçet’s Disease
The International Society for Behçet’s Disease was inaugurated at the 9th International Congress on Behçet’s Disease. Professor Shigeaki Ohno represents the ophthalmology division (Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, Hokkaido University Graduate School of Medicine, Sapporo, Japan: tel: +81-11-716-1161 (ext 5944); fax: +81-11-736-0792; email: sohno@med.hokudai.ac.jp). The 10th International Congress on Behçet’s Disease will be held in Berlin 27–29 June 2002. Further details: Professor Ch Zouboulis (email: zoubbere@zedat.fu-berlin.de).

Call for papers—6th European Forum on Quality Improvement in Health Care, 29–31 March 2001, Bologna, Italy
Further details: BMA/BMJ Conference Unit, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP, UK (tel: +44 (0) 20 7383 6409; fax: +44 (0) 20 7383 6869; email: quality@bma.org.uk; website: www.quality.bmjig.com).

Office of Continuing Medical Education
A symposium “Randomised trials in ophthalmology: past, present, future” will be held 2–3 April 2001 at the Thomas B Turner Building, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland, USA. Further details: Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; Office of Continuing Medical Education, Turner 20, 720 Rutland Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21205-2195, USA (tel: (410) 955-2959; fax: (410) 955-0807; email: cmenev@jhmi.edu).

American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine—Millennium Ultrasound Course Series
A course entitled “Obstetrical and Gynecological Ultrasound” will be held in New York City, NY, on 24–26 August 2001. Further details: Stacey Blessing, Public Relations Coordinator, AIUM, 14750 Sweitzer Lane, Suite 100, Laurel, MD 20707-5906, USA (tel: 301-498-4100; email: sblessing@aium.org).

31st Cambridge Ophthalmological Symposium
The 31st Cambridge Ophthalmological Symposium will be held 3–5 September 2001 at St John’s College Cambridge. The subject is Retinal Detachment. Further details: COS Secretariat, Cambridge Conferences, The Lawn, 33 Church Street, Great Shelford, Cambridge CB2 5EL, UK (tel: 01223 847464; fax: 01223 847465; email: b.ashworth@easynet.co.uk).

4th International Conference on the Adjuvant Therapy of Malignant Melanoma
The 4th International Conference on the adjuvant therapy of malignant melanoma will be held at The Royal College of Physicians, London on 15–16 March 2002. Further details: Conference Secretariat, CCI Ltd, 2 Palmerston Court, Palmerston Way, London SW8 4AJ, UK (tel: +44 (0)20 7720 0600; fax: +44 (0)20 7720 7177; email: melanoma@confcomm.co.uk; website: www.confcomm.co.uk/Melanoma).

International Society for Behçet’s Disease
The International Society for Behçet’s Disease was inaugurated at the 9th International Congress on Behçet’s Disease. Professor Shigeaki Ohno represents the ophthalmology division (Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, Hokkaido University Graduate School of Medicine, Sapporo, Japan: tel: +81-11-716-1161 (ext 5944); fax: +81-11-736-0792; email: sohno@med.hokudai.ac.jp). The 10th International Congress on Behçet’s Disease will be held in Berlin 27–29 June 2002. Further details: Professor Ch Zouboulis (email: zoubbere@zedat.fu-berlin.de).

www.bjophthalmol.com