

Preface

This third volume in the series, *Essentials of Ophthalmology*, just like the first, seeks to bring the ophthalmic practitioner up to date in the important new advances or changes in glaucoma diagnosis or management that have occurred over the last ten years. The last decade has seen significant changes in our understanding of the pathophysiology of some glaucomas, in our diagnostic approaches and in our management of them. Toward the goal of providing the most up-to-date information in a readable fashion, we have asked some of the world's experts to discuss areas to which they have contributed in a way that will be useful for the practicing doctor. For example, one of the pioneers in the imaging of live ganglion cells is Dr. Francesca Cordeiro. Her studies could lead to a potentially significant breakthrough as, in the future, clinicians may be able to determine the health and number of ganglion cells in the retina as both a diagnostic and monitoring test. As the prevalence of glaucoma increases in our aging population, epidemiology has become more important as a methodology to identify risk factors; Drs. Giangiacomo and Coleman discuss what we have recently learned that is relevant to our clinical understanding of glaucoma. Drs. Doshi, Weinreb and colleagues describe the diurnal fluctuation of intraocular pressure, how those fluctuations impact on glaucoma, the relationship of postural change to that fluctuation, and what it means for managing glaucoma. Detecting progression of glaucoma can be tricky. Imaging techniques may be

helpful. Strouthidis and Garway-Heath tell us how. Our concepts of and terminology for angle-closure glaucoma have undergone major changes over the last few years. Sharma, Low and Foster describe these changes and introduce the new—now internationally agreed upon—terminology. The association of uveitis and glaucoma has been known and has frustrated those caring for patients with these two concurrent conditions for many years; Drs. Nagpal and Acharya discuss the interrelationship between uveitis and glaucoma, what the doctor should look for, and how to manage these difficult patients. New approaches to glaucoma surgery have been described recently. Drs. Mendrinos and Shaarawy describe the techniques and results of nonpenetrating glaucoma surgery. Drs. Tam and Ahmed describe and discuss several new approaches to glaucoma surgery using special shunts that have appeared in the past few years. As electronic medical record systems gain popularity around the world, Drs. Schargus and Grehn describe the European Glaucoma Society's electronic glaucoma record and their agreement on what is important to include in such a system. We hope that all the topics and authors that we have selected are helpful in improving the understanding of the many faces of glaucoma and, ultimately, will contribute to reduced visual loss and better care for our patients.

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Glaucoma

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