

Preface

Blepharoptosis (ptosis) is a widely prevalent disorder that is encountered by virtually every clinician, whether one is working with an adult or pediatric population. Therefore, it behooves the medical practitioner to be familiar with this condition from the diagnostic standpoint, particularly with respect to identifying a serious underlying disorder, such as an aneurysm, tumor, carotid artery dissection, or myasthenia gravis. Any surgeon who manages ptosis should be well-acquainted with the various surgical approaches to repair since different techniques are often particularly applicable to certain scenarios.

Landmark treatises on ptosis, such as *Beard's Ptosis*, are unfortunately out-of-print. Furthermore, while certain aspects of this subject, such as the general technique for external levator resection surgery, may not have changed significantly over the years, there have been major advances in our understanding of the underlying genetics and our ability to identify and classify disorders based on the genetic analysis. This is especially relevant to the various inherited myopathies that are often associated with ptosis, which are reviewed in this book. Admittedly, a comprehensive discussion of myopathic disorders is beyond the scope of this text, and we have condensed that subject to a review of myopathies relevant to the ophthalmologist and ptosis surgeon. As scientific research progresses, we have no doubt that there will be much more to say about pathophysiology and genetics of ptosis in the future.

While many books have been published in the field of oculoplastic surgery, most provide only a limited discussion of blepharoptosis, emphasizing the key points of diagnosis and surgical management. It was our intent to provide a practical reference that offered a 360° view of blepharoptosis – from etiology to management. We begin with a historical perspective, then move on to a review of relevant eyelid anatomy and physiology, how to evaluate the ptosis patient, and then differential diagnosis. Other ocular and periocular disorders may be confused with ptosis, and these are discussed in the chapter on pseudoptosis. After reviewing the various categories of ptosis, classified based on etiology, we cover the management of ptosis, including nonsurgical modalities and the various surgical procedures for ptosis correction, as well as tips regarding anesthesia and analgesia during surgery in order to optimize the surgical experience for both the patient and the surgeon. The significance of patient ethnicity and gender is reviewed. The book

would not be complete without a discussion of surgical complications and the basis for surgery failure and its management. The chapter entitled “Perspective of a Risk Manager” provides a thoughtful analysis of the physician–patient relationship, with suggestions regarding how to establish a favorable rapport with the patient and reduce the likelihood of an unhappy patient, regardless of the outcome of surgery.

This is a multiauthored textbook that is written by experts in the fields of oculofacial plastic surgery and neuro-ophthalmology. This subject matter is relevant to physicians and surgeons in all disciplines that deal with eyelid ptosis, from both a diagnostic and therapeutic perspective. It is our hope that this reference text will be helpful to clinicians in a wide range of specialties and ptosis surgeons, from the novice to the expert.

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