

# Preface

Pathology residents are required to learn a voluminous amount of material during their training. The quantity of exposure to ophthalmic pathology varies among residency programs and is most likely to occur during a one-month elective rotation in neuropathology. However, a busy neuropathology service comprises frozen sections and surgical cases, skeletal muscle and peripheral nerve biopsies, autopsy cases, and ophthalmic pathology. That's a lot of material to learn in 4 weeks.

I recall being a resident and often wondering how was I ever going to learn the material necessary to prepare for afternoon sign-out, prepare for unknown slide conferences, pass the national board examination, and become a competent pathologist, all the while knowing the month would soon be over. During a new rotation, it might be beneficial to have a reference that could be read in a short period of time and would provide a basic introduction and foundation of practical knowledge.

As pathologists, we strive to make the correct diagnosis and convey the correct information in all of our cases. This requires an almost daily attempt to learn more and see more cases at conferences, in books, in journals, and from our colleagues. We must continue our education by learning new entities and by recognizing unusual diagnoses and nonclassical presentations. We must read, do Internet or PubMed searches, consult with our colleagues, and keep reading.

Knowing as much as possible is always the goal, but we have to start somewhere. All black belts were once white belts. You run a marathon one step at a time. And learning pathology is no different.

When I travel to a new place, I often take a guided tour, usually on a bus filled with other tourists. These tours visit the "major highlights," and you are shuttled through each attraction rather quickly. At the end of the day, you have seen a lot, but you wish you had more time to spend there. The format of this concise guide is somewhat analogous; indeed, further in-depth reading and knowledge will be necessary if you are going to sign out the eye pathology service.

I hope this basic introductory guide provides you with a foundation upon which to build and expand your knowledge of ophthalmic pathology. I often wonder if this guide is oversimplified. And when I do, I refer to a concept taught and written about by the iconic martial artist Bruce Lee: the concept of simplicity.

Ophthalmic Pathology

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