
Preface

Inflammation of the sclera is a relatively uncommon problem in most practices, but its acute presentation and possible progression to globe destruction with visual loss and also the potential link with a serious underlying systemic disease always generate anxiety for the treating ophthalmologist.

A good understanding of the presenting clinical signs, especially the recognition of signs indicating progression to a more severe disease, is essential for a good outcome. The next chapters will try to make this task easier by highlighting the key aspects of the clinical presentations and also describing the potential causes of scleritis, both those considered purely related to an immune mechanism, by the far the most common, and those linked to an infectious aetiology. The diagnostic approach to scleritis will also be clearly described which will hopefully allow the reader to rationalise the way to investigate these cases and avoid some pitfalls usually related to poor recognition of clinical signs and inappropriate testing.

A chapter on complications will address the many possible ocular morbidities associated with this inflammatory problem and how to address them. Finally we hope to provide invaluable guidance on the best way of managing scleritis, exploring local and systemic therapies with conventional options and also the most recent developments in immunosuppressive therapy. The use of the different agents and the potential problems should help you make balanced decisions regarding the best alternative for each patient.

I hope this book will represent a valuable practical contribution to all practitioners who will come in contact with this difficult problem.

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Scleritis

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