

Book Review

Medical Management of Glaucoma, James C. Tsai and Max Forbes, Professional Communications, Inc., "Leatherette" – bound softcover handbook, \$21.95

Although the title of the handbook suggests a focus on glaucoma medications, the authors have produced an effective and relatively comprehensive review of glaucoma epidemiology, etiology, diagnosis, medical and surgical treatment, and surgical complications. The target audience of this compact handbook is ophthalmology residents, interested primary care physicians and medical students, and practicing ophthalmologists who desire an updated review of glaucoma diagnosis and treatment.

The text is written in a succinct and readable manner. Tables and figures are easy to understand and summarize information very well. References are to major and seminal papers, mainstream textbooks, and appropriate reviews from respected glaucoma experts.

The chapters on "Patient Assessment" and "Visual Field and Ancillary Testing" include descriptions of various tonometric techniques, gonioscopy techniques, visual field formats, and retinal nerve fiber layer and optic nerve head assessment devices. These chapters also include discussion of central corneal thickness, diurnal IOP variation, and genetic testing.

There are separate chapters for the epidemiology, etiology, natural history, and pitfalls in diagnosis of primary open-angle glaucoma. The "Epidemiology" chapter summarizes the prevalence of glaucoma found in the major population studies such as the Baltimore Eye Survey, the Beaver Dam Eye Survey, the Rotterdam Study, and the Barbados Eye Study. The etiology chapter focuses on the roles of aqueous outflow obstruction, optic neuropathy, genetic factors, and systemic factors. "Natural History" provides insights from the Ocular Hypertension Treatment Study (OHTS), The Early Manifest Glaucoma Trial (EMGT), the Collaborative Normal Tension

Glaucoma Study, and the Olmstead County Study. "Pitfalls in Glaucoma Diagnosis" describes causes of non-glaucomatous optic neuropathy, as well as abnormal central corneal thickness and common causes of unilateral glaucoma such as pseudoexfoliation and trauma.

The "Treatment Modalities" chapter is an expanded section that gives a general overview of medical, laser, and surgical therapies. This chapter also addresses general issues relevant to medical treatment such as efficacy and safety, diurnal variation control, compliance, target IOP, and unilateral trials. "Landmark Glaucoma Studies" provides further guidance with an evidence-based approach to treatment, based on the major multi-center studies in glaucoma including the recent OHTS and EMGT.

The chapter on "Medication for Glaucoma" covers the panoply of topical and systemic medications in current use. Descriptions of efficacy, side effects, contraindications, etc. are clear and appropriately detailed. The following chapter, "Comparative Clinical Trials/Primary Treatment Algorithm," is timely, balanced, and practical for the reader.

The final chapters on primary angle-closure glaucoma, secondary open-angle glaucoma, complications following laser procedure, complications following glaucoma incisional surgery when medical therapy is insufficient, and refractory glaucoma are short and complete the reader's knowledge base of the glaucomas.

In summary, due to the limits of the volume, the handbook is not a replacement for a full textbook of glaucoma; however, for the ophthalmology resident, it is a welcome practical tool. Those in primary care and clinical ophthalmological practice will also find this handbook a very readable and useful up-to-date review.

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