

Medical Management of Glaucoma

by James C. Tsai, MD, and Max Forbes, MD, 240 pp, with illus, \$21.95, ISBN 1-88473-580-0, West Islip, NY: Professional Communications, NC, 2003.

Medical Management of Glaucoma is a recent addition to the pocket-reference category of glaucoma books. As the title suggests, the book focuses on the diagnosis of glaucoma and the use of topical pressure-lowering medications as medical therapy for glaucoma.

The book has a well-designed, logical sequence of chapters, starting with areas such as epidemiology and the clinical examination. Next come chapters on major glaucoma studies and glaucoma medications, followed by information on lasers and incisional surgery. The 17 chapters average 5 to 10 pages, and each concludes with a short list of pertinent references.

The longest chapters are devoted to an overview of treatment modalities and a detailed discussion covering glaucoma medications. Each of the major classes of medications is discussed with useful summary charts on the mechanism of action, adverse effects, and dosages. The tables are generally well organized and present the major information in a succinct and focused fashion.

For the optometrist, technician, or resident-in-training, this book will provide a good introduction to basic glaucoma concepts. For the practicing comprehensive ophthalmologist many of the subjects would be considered basic knowledge. However, even this group may find some useful pearls for glaucoma diagnosis and management. The length of the

book, 216 pocket-sized pages, allows for an easy weekend reading, which would provide a useful quick review for physicians at any level.

One of the drawbacks of this pocket reference is the lack of color photographs and illustrations. Many components of glaucoma diagnosis and management rely on subtle visual findings that can't easily be depicted with black-and-white illustrations. Another minor drawback is the superficial coverage of visual field testing, one of the pillars of glaucoma diagnosis and monitoring. Other ancillary tests, such as nerve fiber analysis or optic nerve head topography, are also only briefly mentioned. These tests are now generally considered to provide useful adjunctive information in the diagnosis and monitoring of glaucoma, and information on how to interpret these tests should be part of any book discussing the medical management of glaucoma.

This book was written to serve as a pocket reference and not a compendium of glaucoma knowledge. It fulfills this intent with short, focused chapters; useful tables; and summary charts. The basics of glaucoma diagnosis and management are covered to varying degrees. The physician interested in a short review of pertinent clinical glaucoma diagnosis and management will find *Medical Management of Glaucoma* a useful resource.

Peter W. DeBry, MD
Las Vegas, Nev