

## **Retinal Vascular Disorders**

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In *Retinal Vascular Disorders*, Dr Mohan and co-authors cover common and important retinal vascular disorders in a series of short chapters which are written by one or more of the authors. The text is organised logically, with clear headings and subdivisions, and is generally well-written and quite readable.

One of the strengths of the chapter layout is that the author starts with a short definition or description of the condition. This makes it clear to the reader the exact nature and scope of the disease, something that can sometimes be overlooked in the midst of all the details when reading larger, more wordy textbooks. The text usually provides a brief historical perspective on the condition, explaining how it was first described and the evolution of our understanding of the disease. The authors generally manage to do this in a succinct manner, relating relevant facts which help enhance our understanding. The next portion usually covers the pathophysiology of the disease, which nicely explains the manifestations of the various clinical signs subsequently described.

Although the common clinical manifestations are described, the readers' understanding might be enhanced if the text contained references to some of the accompanying photographs at the end of the chapter. It is said that a picture is worth a thousand words, and greater use could have been made of some of the excellent clinical pictures included in the book.

At relevant points in the chapters, the authors provide tables that contrast the condition being described with other common differential diagnoses. The tables are excellent, quick references to compare and contrast these disorders. The chapter on Eale's disease was especially well-written, with a flow chart showing the division of vasculitis into non-inflammatory and inflammatory causes. The accompanying text highlighted important features in the history and clinical examination which guide the clinician to investigate for and exclude the other causes. This method of presentation is very effective because it adopts a patient-oriented approach to these conditions, which is exactly the situation that a doctor faces when a patient is sitting in front of him in the consultation room.

With over 100 pages of text, the book is easy to read and very convenient to carry around. As stated in the *Preface*, the aim of the book is to provide "a systematic and easily assimilated introduction to various retinal vascular disorders". In this regard, the goals have been achieved admirably. The framework provided allows readers to progress to larger texts for more in-depth coverage of a particular area of interest.

The book contains some excellent clinical photographs which are printed two to a page. A valuable feature in the choice of photographs is that many of the accompanying fundal fluorescein angiograms are taken from the same eye as the clinical photograph above, so that reader can correlate the clinical appearance with the fluorescein angiogram appearance. As previously mentioned, the impact would have been stronger if the text had included more references to specific photos as the clinical manifestations or investigations were being described. It would have been even better if the photos had been integrated with the text rather than inserted on a separate page at the end of the chapter. This has the effect of having the reader review the photographs as a separate entity rather than as a supplement to the chapter.

Overall, this is a good book and will make a useful addition for general ophthalmologists, beginning residents as well as vitreoretinal subspecialists who want a quick review of the retinal vascular disorders.

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