The Pediatric Glaucomas


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There are many practitioners treating glaucoma, but for the exception of a few doctors and subspecialties, pediatric glaucoma is not frequently encountered. This text covers the many variations of pediatric glaucoma very well, allowing the practitioner to easily find information that is evidence based, interspersed with the authors’ clinical perspectives. The text itself is concise and extremely comprehensive producing a resource that is easily followed. The numerous high quality photographs contribute to the understanding and clinical findings of the diseases and the organization of the topics is exceptional.

The text begins with a historical perspective of developmental glaucomas and the treatments that have provided a foundation and a reference point for current advancements in the battle against this devastating disease. Chapter 2 covers the terminology and classification of the various developmental glaucomas in manner that is well organized and devised for the reader to quickly learn. The next few chapters are very thorough in describing the embryogenesis, theories of pathology, genetics and epidemiology. The information in these chapters is current and mainly targeted towards academics for which the information is pertinent.

As the chapters approach the individual variations of the disease, the design is consistent beginning with a concise and specific table of the information that is to be covered. The descriptions are complete and well referenced. The first impression is that this text will read very technically as most textbooks do. It is at this point that the reader discovers that this text does not follow the sterile writing styles of most. It instead chooses to include caveats that relate to the feelings of the parent and the examiner’s subsequent apprehensions that many practitioners encounter as discussed in chapter 6. These impressions are littered throughout as the authors remind the readers how involved the doctor must be with their patients. In chapter 10, the psychosocial ramifications of the family are discussed with the authors making the points that “the families should also be familiarized with the various agencies that will afford financial assistance” and that the parents’ “guilt problems must be assuaged”. The authors remind the reader to take proper time with the patient’s family and reiterates that the responsibility does not end with treatment and follow-ups. Management must be tailored to the patient as those who continue to progress must, per the authors’ recommendation, require counseling as to lessen the social and educational struggles.

The medical and surgical treatments are covered in great descriptive and illustrational detail, covering initial surgeries and subsequent management. Of particular importance is the emphasis of current long-term surgical results. Summarization tables of available visual outcome and surgical success studies are prevalent. It is interesting that the authors dedicate a short chapter to “simultaneous surgery for bilateral congenital glaucoma” rather than incorporating the topic into other surgical chapters. This further indicates the authors’ concern about identifying factors that affect the best outcome achievable, presenting the risks of such surgery including anesthesia to the parents. The authors believe to fully include the family in the decision-making and to help them understand the risks. The textbook concludes with a chapter on the importance of low vision and the management of the visually impaired child imploring a multidisciplinary approach to enhance mobility and encourages the
use of properly trained educators who deal with the vision impaired. It is ironic that despite the fact that a multidisciplinary approach is emphasized and Optometrists provide the majority of low vision treatment, the last sentence of the book does not refer to our profession exclusively but instead states that “rehabilitative services may be provided by the treating ophthalmologist or other professionals who manage children with low vision”.

This short textbook is not intended for most practicing doctors but is highly recommended for those in large glaucoma practices and is an asset for pediatric and ocular disease residents. The goals of the text are achieved well, providing information that can be learned quickly. The only negative that I can find is that this reference was not available early in my training as it would have been an invaluable resource.

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