BOOK REVIEWS

Strabismus Surgery: Basic and Advanced Strategies

E G Buckley, D A Plager, M X Repka, M E Wilson, D A Plager, ed. Contributions by M M Parks, G K von Noorden. Pp 194; £42.99. *Ophthalmology Monographs* 17. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004. ISBN0-19-517023-7.

This book is part of the American Academy of Ophthalmology Monograph series. It represents not only a scientific approach to strabismus, but also the collective experience of its prominent authors and contributors. The stated purpose of the book is to share the combined experience of the four authors, each of whom has been instructed by some of the most prominent strabismologists of the second half of the 20th century.

At the beginning of each chapter one of the authors provides a readable description of current techniques in their areas of interest, then the editor invites the other contributors to comment on the work of fellow authors. Then two masters of strabismology, Gunter K von Noorden and the late Marshall M Parks comment and critique the work of the other authors. The result is a conglomeration of varying and sometimes contradictory opinions. Many of these conflicting approaches make for challenging and interesting reading. This text is certainly not for the faint hearted, and too complex for the junior trainee ophthalmologist; you need a solid grounding in basic strabismus assessment and surgical management to appreciate it.

This text does not claim to be an all inclusive reference book on strabismus, nor a beginners' text for those unfamiliar with basic strabismus techniques. It is clinically applicable on every level, discussing surgical strategies and important examination techniques intended for anyone performing strabismus surgery, from common horizontal muscle surgery to the most complicated restrictive, paretic, or oblique muscle re-operation. The first chapter discusses esotropic deviations, including infantile and acquired esotropia. Then exotropic deviations are covered comprehensively. The third chapter is a detailed discussion of oblique muscle dysfunction, including inferior and superior oblique overaction and underaction. Next, dissociated deviations are covered, including a discussion of theories of causation. Paralytic strabismus is then tackled, ranging from nerve palsies to central neurological disease. There is an excellent chapter on restrictive strabismus covering the principles of assessment and treatment, and then the specific aetiologies, including thyroid ophthalmopathy, orbital wall fractures, retinal detachment surgery, cataract surgery, and congenital fibrosis syndrome. Next there is an interesting chapter on nystagmus surgery. The text ends with an excellent discussion of re-operation strategies, including residual and consecutive deviations post surgery; both horizontal and vertical deviations are covered quite comprehensively.

The book is an excellent read if you want a complex, comprehensive, and clinically applicable discussion of strabismus surgery. It is a wonderful reference text for challenging strabismus cases. However, this is not a text for those who are not completely comfortable with the basics of strabismus assessment and surgery.

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Casanova and the Spitfire pilots (The Story of the Development of the Intraocular Lens)

Released at the recent Royal College of Ophthalmologists Annual Congress 2005. The 45 minute DVD is freely available to all college members and fellows from: Charlotte Ellis, Advanced Medical Optics, Jupiter House, Mercury Park, Woodburn Green, Buckles, HP10 0HH, UK, www.amo-inc.com. The DVD was produced at Moorfields Eye Hospital in the bicentennial year by Hugh Williams and Alan Lacey.

Hugh Williams introduces his subject by asking what possible connection there could be between Casanova and the Spitfire pilots. After watching this DVD, you may be none the wiser. This is, however, 47 minutes of education and entertainment on a subject that is of relevance and interest to all ophthalmologists—broadly divided into the history of cataract surgery but also, more particularly, the related development of the lens implant. Younger surgeons may indeed not be aware of the chequered and controversial history of intraocular lens implants, now so universally accepted.

As we would expect, credit for developing the first plausible implants is given to Sir Harold Ridley, described here as one of the most illustrious ophthalmologists that Moorfields Eye Hospital has known, although the first procedure was carried out at St Thomas's Hospital in 1949. As pointed out to us, it is rather extraordinary that a number of Ridley's early implants without supporting haptics were carried out after intracapsular surgery when he must have known that this had been tried in previous centuries with resultant dislocation of the lens into the vitreous cavity in many or most cases. Although in medicine we are sometimes accused of being slow to recognise and embrace new developments, in this case some reluctance was quite well founded, and indeed Hugh Williams tells us that a disheartened Ridley himself stopped implanting lenses in 1964 because of poor results and the hostility of many of his colleagues both here and in the United States.

The subsequent invention of phacoemulsification by Charles Kelman in 1967 had a similar history of clinical horror stories and professional antagonism.

We are told of the ingenuity and perseverance of a small number of surgeons worldwide with the development and use of numerous patterns of lens implants, with many blind alleys. Convergence of these developments with greatly improved phacoemulsification apparatus has resulted in the present day acceptance of these twin technologies.

No one should underestimate the difficulties that aphakic patients endured before reliable lens implants were available. Patients often preferred to put up with the extreme blurring of aphakia than use aphakic glasses or contact lenses. The spectacular advances of phacoemulsification and modern intraocular lenses have brought huge benefits to patients. However, the development of such technology must always be a balance between potential gains for future patients and potential blinding disasters for the early human guinea pigs. The Hippocratic tenet of *primum non nocere* was clearly suspended where the development of lens implants was concerned. There are parallels here with the development of hip replacements, where first operations were often carried out in secrecy, without any previous laboratory research, with many patients worse off than before their surgery, and large numbers of prostheses needing later removal. Although

we may complain about the bureaucracy, we probably deserve the regulatory agencies that have sprung up to monitor the safe introduction of new technologies in medicine.

In this DVD, Peter Choyce, who himself developed a once widely used rigid anterior chamber lens, is quoted as saying that if Sir Harold Ridley had not done what he did when he did it, it is quite possible it may never have been done. This would seem extremely unlikely. Each person watching this DVD will make up her or his mind whether the early countless blinding disasters described by Hugh Williams were worthwhile for the greater good of later generations, or whether they could have been mitigated by better preparatory research and development in a more open and regulated environment.

Hugh Williams presents this saga in a most accomplished and engaging style. Supporting cast is Richard Keeler, archivist of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists, who has a very truncated walk-on part. Better luck for a bigger part next time, Richard. This DVD is recommended viewing.

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NOTICES

EYE INJURIES

The latest issue of *Community Eye Health* (No 55) discussed the assessment and management of eye injuries in the developing world. For further information please contact: Journal of Community Eye Health, International Resource Centre, International Centre for Eye Health, Department of Infectious and Tropical Diseases, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, London WC1E 7HT, UK (tel: +44 (0)20 7612 7964; email: Anita.Shah@lshtm.ac.uk; online edition: www.jceh.co.uk). Annual subscription (4 issues) UK £28/US\$45. Free to developing country applicants.

8th EUNOS Meeting – 2007

The 2007 European Neuro-ophthalmology Society meeting (EUNOS; www.eunos.web.org) will be taking place in Istanbul, Turkey on 26-29th May 2007. For further information please visit www.eunos2007.org or contact Pinar Aydin aydinp@eunos2007.org

Teaching courses on Retinal and Vitreous Surgery

Several teaching courses on Retinal and Vitreous Surgery have been organised throughout 2006 and 2007 around the world in association with the International Faculty. For further information on each of these courses please contact Ingrid Kressig, Univ.-Augenklinik Theodor-Kutzer-Ufer 1-3, 68164 Mannheim, Germany; email: Ingrid.kressig@augen.ma.uni-heidelberg.de; website: <http://kressig.uni-hd.de/>.

16th Meeting of the EASD Eye Complication Study Group

The 16th meeting of the EASD Eye Complication Study Group will take place in Aarhus, Denmark on 26-28th May 2006. The deadline for abstracts is 4th March 2006. For further information please contact KongresKompagniet, Nordhavnsgrøde 1, DK-8000 Århus C, Denmark; phone: +45 8629 6960; fax: +45 8629 6980; email: easdec@kongreskompagniet.dk; EASDec website: www.easdec.org