

Glaucoma Surgery

S. Fabián Lerner, MD, and Richard K. Parrish II, MD. Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2003; 192 pp. \$129. ISBN 0-7817-3732-X.

When we reflect on the differences between progress in modern cataract surgery and glaucoma surgery, we believe that cataract surgery is largely defined by technology while glaucoma surgery is largely defined by technique. Two highly experienced glaucoma surgeons, Drs. Lerner and Parrish, introduced the first edition of *Glaucoma Surgery* to teach the techniques that have worked for them. They achieve the stated purpose of this book, to illustrate step-by-step the commonly used techniques in glaucoma surgery, in an organized and very reader-friendly format. Their practical approach places particular emphasis on preventing and managing the complications of glaucoma surgery. The text is clear and amply illustrated with color images and extensive black-and-white line drawings that particularly enhance sections covering surgical steps and techniques.

The book is organized in 15 chapters. The first 2 focus on preoperative topics of concern to the glaucoma surgeon, indications for surgery, type of anesthesia, and relevant anatomy. The remaining chapters proceed to cover the surgical techniques. The scope includes congenital/infantile glaucoma procedures, trabeculectomy, combined cataract-glaucoma procedures, drainage devices, and lasers in glaucoma.

Six chapters are dedicated to the most common glaucoma procedure, trabeculectomy. Topics include standard trabeculectomy, small-incision trabeculectomy, intraoperative complications of trabeculectomy, early postoperative trabeculectomy management, wound heal-

ing modulation, and late complications of trabeculectomy. One chapter we found particularly interesting was the technique of small-incision trabeculectomy developed by Dr. Lerner. He provides a persuasive argument for the need for a "minimally invasive" procedure that lessens inflammation and scarring to improve the likelihood of bleb function.

Complications of trabeculectomy are discussed in 4 chapters, taking up a large portion of the book content, much as they do in "real life". They are discussed as intraoperative, early, and late, with a chapter dedicated solely to the use of antimetabolites. While the approach to antimetabolites might not be that used by all experienced surgeons, it is a helpful guide for those who do not regularly use these medications. The authors provide options for solving challenging problems. For example in the chapter on late complications of trabeculectomy, different approaches to the surgical management of a leaking bleb are described. They start with conjunctival flap advancement, then illustrate the alternative technique of autologous free conjunctival graft when a conjunctival flap will not suffice.

Perhaps one of the most interesting chapters, although concise, was the one on surgery in special situations. It focused on circumstances deemed challenging even for the experienced glaucoma surgeon, such as glaucoma surgery after vitreo-retinal surgery, penetrating keratoplasty, and in aphakic eyes.

A single chapter is devoted to combined cataract and glaucoma surgery. The authors describe mainly their own approach, rather than cover a broad range of alternatives. This seems appropriate considering that many surgeons are now doing their standard clear cornea cataract surgery combined with a standard trabeculectomy in those eyes having combined surgery. Drainage devices, lasers in glaucoma, and cyclodestructive pro-

cedures are covered in the last section of the book. Some of the relatively newer and less widely performed surgical approaches, such as viscocanalostomy, and non-penetrating trabeculectomy are not discussed by the authors.

Throughout the book color images are generally of excellent quality, with abundance of additional black-and-white artist illustrations that depict the different steps of a procedure. All chapters have good surgical management pearls at the end, and a touch of personal experience that further enhances it. The surgical instruments' product numbers and manufacturers are stated consistently, something particularly helpful for the readers looking to build up their surgical instrument collection.

This book is not extensively referenced, nor is it comprehensively encyclopedic. It does however cover all the essentials of glaucoma surgery. It is well written, easy to read, and is enriched by the authors' surgical experience and personal insight. Because the book is written by 2 authors the content is consistent in style, cohesive, personal, and lacks the redundancy found in books with multiple chapter authors.

This book would be a useful tool to the ophthalmology resident and the comprehensive practitioner performing glaucoma procedures. Anyone mastering the techniques of these experienced surgeons would have a firm foundation in glaucoma surgery. As glaucoma specialists we learned several interesting alternatives and pearls, just as we would have if we sat with colleagues and compared our techniques.

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