

# MULTIMEDIA REVIEWS

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**Stereo Atlas of Fluorescein and Indocyanine Green Angiography**, by Rosalind A. Stevens, Patrick J. Saine, and Marshall E. Tyler. *Woburn, MA, Butterworth-Heinemann, 1999, 147 pp. Price: \$85.00*

When this atlas arrived, my initial impression was, "What? Another atlas of retinal and choroidal disease?" We already have the classic *Stereoscopic Atlas of Macular Diseases* by Gass, now in its fourth edition. Yannuzzi, Guyer, and Green have published an excellent atlas, following the organization of Stephen Ryan's textbook, *Retina*. Why would we need another atlas? However, as I began to read the text, I was immediately impressed by the accuracy and clarity of the writing. Then I took out the red-cyan stereoscopic glasses and viewed the multiple stereo photographs. Great stuff!

The authors begin with a very good introduction to interpretation of the basics of (stereo) ocular angiography. Table 1.1 reviews the major angiographic features with fluorescein and indocyanine green (ICG) angiograms of a variety of common and uncommon diseases. The text provides a good summary of the basics of interpretation of ocular angiograms. The relevant anatomy is described. The spatial and temporal aspects of angiography are emphasized. The importance of pattern recognition in the angiograms is emphasized very nicely in Figures 1.9 and 1.10, which show how spatial patterns are very helpful in diagnosis and that temporal patterns can also be of immense value. I have not seen this topic so nicely summarized. The phases of a normal fluorescein and ICG angiogram are then reviewed.

The next chapter relates the principles of performing stereoretinal photography and angiography. The writing is clear and precise. The remainder of the book is an atlas of many common and some uncommon retinal-choroidal diseases. The angiography of macular degeneration is well covered. A va-

riety of other pigment epithelial and vascular diseases of the retina are included.

The stereoscopic "effect" of the pictures varies considerably. Some have outstanding stereo qualities, but in others I had difficulty seeing any stereo effect. This was related in part to the elevation of the lesions, but this did not completely explain the variations. The glossy paper (necessary for the figures?) provided some distraction, as reflections interfered with my viewing. Other than this, I had fun with this atlas.

This atlas provides a fine way to learn angiography, including stereoscopic interpretation. I recommend this book for residents and fellows.

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**Atlas of Vitreous Biomicroscopy**, by Charles L. Schepens, Clement L. Trempe, and Masataka Takahashi. *Woburn, MA, Butterworth-Heinemann, 1999. Price: \$75.00*

The vitreoretinal group in Boston, led by Charles Schepens, has been interested in the vitreous cavity since the 1950s, as described in the preface of this book. They spent many years attempting to develop a vitreous substitute. Their recent investigative efforts have concentrated on examining the vitreous and using the information obtained to predict clinical outcomes and indications for therapy. This atlas summarizes some of this work. Although the listed authors of this book are Schepens, Trempe, and Takahashi, all of the chapters are written by Japanese investigators.

The book begins with a brief description of the history of vitreous biomicroscopy. Techniques for examination of the patient, including comments about the slit-lamp and the laser scanning ophthalmoscope, are included. A discussion of the lenses

used for examination of the vitreous is well done and would be of value to residents and others in training. The second chapter deals with techniques of photography of the vitreous, including monochromatic techniques. Chapter 3 describes examination techniques for the vitreous cavity. Here, photographs begin to demonstrate normal and abnormal vitreous cavity and vitreoretinal interface. The quality of the photographs is, in general, good. However, since these are two-dimensional presentations of very complex three-dimensional information, it is often difficult to orient and understand the various structures seen in the photographs. I would suggest that, in future editions, serious consideration be given to having sketches next to many of the complicated photographs with labels demonstrating what each of the structures seen in the photograph represents. The authors use arrows and letters on the photographs, but these do not adequately present the very complex information in the photograph.

The Schepens group has emphasized the participation of the vitreous in a wide variety of pathologic conditions, including cystoid macular edema, retinal vascular occlusions, retinal detachment related to macular holes and optic pits, etc. The photographs attempt to emphasize the role of the vitreous in these and other diseases. To a large extent, this effort is successful. Undoubtedly, the vitreous is very important in many of these clinical conditions. I was

a little surprised, however, to see the suggestion that vitreoretinal traction is responsible for the macular detachment seen with optic pits. Although this is a complicated situation, most people do not feel traction is the culprit.

The photographs cover a wide variety of common and uncommon vitreoretinal diseases. Some of them are outstanding and others are difficult to interpret. The text is well written. Each chapter has a list of references. In some cases, this book can be faulted for not adequately citing the work of others. For example, the section on macular holes spends very little time on Donald Gass's theories of macular hole formation. Although some of the Gass papers are cited, a discussion of the Gass theory of macular holes and the authors' experience with clinical examination and photography of the vitreous in these patients would be informative.

Students of the vitreous and the vitreoretinal interface will enjoy this book. I encourage the authors to incorporate sketches adjacent to each of the complex photographs. A balanced discussion of the controversies, such as the origin of idiopathic macular hole, the role of the vitreous in cystoid macular edema, schisis and detachment from optic pit, etc., would enhance the value of the book.

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