

## Ocular Pathology Case Reviews 1st Edition, Amir A. Azari and Daniel M. Albert (2015). ISBN: 978-0323-2879-51 Elsevier

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This 409-page, soft-cover book is directed at ophthalmologists, ophthalmology trainees, and general practitioners. The aim of the book is to provide, for each of the 200 cases, representative clinical images and “histopathological appearance” of the lesions such that the reader can form a diagnosis or differential diagnosis. As such, the book presents the cases in an “Objective Structured Clinical Examinations” (OSCE) or ‘quiz’ like fashion.

The book is divided into six chapters (Eyelid, Orbit and optic nerve, Cornea and conjunctiva, Uveal tract tumours, Retina and vitreous, and Glaucoma and other disorders). An index of cases as well as a word index is included for ease of use. The smooth glossy pages bear good to excellent quality clinical and histopathological images. Each case is presented as a vignette in two parts: (i) a brief clinical history, usually one but occasionally two clinical images and one to two unlabelled/non-annotated images, followed overleaf by (ii) identical histopathological images, now annotated and labelled and accompanied by a diagnosis and very brief clinical description and histological description.

The 200 cases cover a broad range of pathologies. The authors are commended for acknowledging sources for images. The clinical images are mostly representative; however,

additional images of ancillary investigations, as used in clinical practice, may approximate the normal investigative pathway practiced today.

The histological image annotation is mostly well done, but occasionally this obscures the histology partially (although the original non-annotated image is available). Histopathological images are not always labelled as to the use of special stains, e.g., the use of a periodic acid Schiff (PAS) stain in case 180, page 360, is not mentioned. The histological image for case 195 is not really diagnostic for Crohn’s disease, and appears non-specific. Overall, some of the histological features are oversimplified, and the full complexity of histological detail, complemented in routine practice by immunohistochemistry and molecular pathology, is lost in many cases — e.g., uveal metastatic lesions, lymphoma, and melanoma.

In summary, there is a good range of diseases offered in this book to the beginner in ophthalmic pathology; it could be considered “an initial learning tool”, to which one can refer back simply and rapidly. The explanatory notes are perhaps overly simple and could be slightly more detailed. A second edition might be improved by expansion of the text and by including a discussion on ancillary studies, such as immunohistochemistry, molecular, and genetics where necessary.

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