R. Sampaolesi, J. Zarate and J.R. Sampaolesi (eds): The Glaucomas Volume 1: Pediatric Glaucomas

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This hard-cover book includes a DVD, and is divided into 28 chapters on different aspects of congenital glaucoma for specialists and residents. The book itself is not original, since many other books on glaucoma have been published, but it contains the experience of the three authors with some unpublished data which could improve the quality of the information; on the other hand, one needs to take into account that no peer-review has been carried out on the data. The authors analyze all the clinical features such as genetics, intraocular pressure (IOP), angle, optic nerve head, visual field and differential diagnosis for different types of congenital glaucoma. Furthermore, in several chapters the authors describe their own cases of congenital glaucoma patients, outlining some clinical concepts. The book is full of images, which makes it user-friendly; furthermore, the DVD enhances the book and the images are of high quality. The authors selected some important papers, but in doing so sacrificed some other interesting references.

In the first two chapters, the authors describe the history, the epidemiology, the aetio-pathogenesis and the classification. In the third and fourth chapter, there is a good description of the clinical features and the possibilities of examining a newborn under general anesthesia. They point out the possible effects of anesthetic agents on intraocular pressure (IOP), and how normal IOP can change in children from birth to 5 years of age. Ocular echometry is described in chapter 6, and they add three cases to show how it is useful in clinical practice.

In chapters 8–14, the anterior chamber is described from different points of view: they start to describe the embryology and then the anatomy, followed by the clinical

examination showing the different gonio-lenses available on the marketing. Then the authors prefer to describe first the normal chamber in adults and then abnormal angles associated with the different types of congenital glaucoma. Good images of abnormal anterior chamber (cornea, angle, iris) by using SL-OCT are shown. An interesting clinical charter is described in chapter 14, and it is possible to use this charter with the data in our clinical practice.

A nice review of surgery for congenital glaucoma is carried out in chapter 15; the different types of surgery are described, and in chapter 16 their own unpublished results are described, which show the differences between trabeculotomy and combined surgery in 128 patients who were treated by the authors.

Several pages then describe the optic nerve head and visual field (VF). In both chapters the Heidelberg Retina Tomograph (HRT), Octopus visual field and high-pass resolution perimetry are discussed. In the former they introduce their own HRT optic disc classification, which has already been published, and they show what HRT can show in some particular cases such as Morning-Glory syndrome or optic disc pits, etc. In the VF chapter they introduced the Brusini glaucoma staging system as an easy way to follow patients with congenital glaucoma. The theory is associated with some real cases describing the HRT, VF and many other data.

In the final chapters, the authors discuss in detail the different types of congenital glaucomas: the goniodysgenesis or late congenital glaucomas, the congenital glaucoma associated with ocular malformations, with ocular and somatic malformations or congenital errors of the metabolism, the congenital mesodermal dystrophies, and the nonhereditary congenital glaucomas.

All in all I would recommend this book, which is certainly a good asset for every glaucoma specialist to have as a reference.

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