

## Cornea

Douglas Coster (Editor) 2001, 200 pages, £60.00  
BMJ Books, London, England  
ISBN 0 7279 1557 6

*Eye* (2003) 17, 115. doi:10.1038/sj.eye.6700256

Fundamentals of Clinical Ophthalmology is a series of books aimed specifically at ophthalmologists in training, although also of interest to other clinicians. This is the eighth volume to be published.

At around 180 pages in length, it lies usefully between the well-known reference books on the cornea and smaller chapters in general ophthalmic texts. But this is a unique book in other ways. It has been written with great care, evidently after much thought and planning. It does not follow the usual disease-

orientated pattern. Here clinical problems are discussed according to the presenting features. There are sections on corneal ulceration, superficial keratopathy, interstitial keratitis, chronic epithelial defects and so on. It is a refreshingly new approach, akin to the situation faced in clinical practice and enabling the reader to relate to their own experience. It is very different from the cold words of standard reference texts and yet covers all the important and common corneal disorders, as well as many of the rarer ones.

The same approach is continued throughout the book, with the author taking particular care to emphasise the diagnostic process. There are many flow charts and diagrams that clearly convey strategies for diagnosis as well as the inter-relationship of aetiological factors. This is all beautifully illustrated and

detailed, where appropriate, with photographs and tables.

The last two chapters consist of a series of tables. One is concerned with surgical procedures, giving brief but sufficient details of the operation, possible complications and post-operative care. The other summarises medical treatments with indications, alternatives and possible complications.

This is a special book with a logical and educational approach to the subject. It gives the reader the necessary factual information and at the same time manages to impart insight and understanding.

Jl Prydal  
Department of Ophthalmology  
Leicester Royal Infirmary  
Leicester LE1 5WW, UK  
Tel: +44 116 258 6478  
Fax: +44 116 258 5927  
E-mail: jip@elmc.demon.co.uk