Experts offer comprehensive and specialised approach to phakic IOLs

by Seamus Sweeney MD

In Your Good Books

Feature

Dioptre. The scope of intraocular lens-based surgery is narrower but is steadily increasing. So much attention, both within ophthalmology and in the lay press, is paid to LASIK that the expanding role of implants is ignored.

Ashok Garg – a familiar name to readers of this column – has, according to his biography, "created a world record for writing maximum number of international ophthalmology books in a calendar year (2006). For this achievement his name has been included in prestigious Limca Book of Records and nominated in Guinness Book of World Records." It's an unusual and somewhat touching inclusion in normally dry and pedantic medical biographies.

How does this record-breaking volume (or at least accessory to record-breaking) compare to its predecessors? It is of a somewhat smaller format than other Jaypee books edited by Dr Garg. This is a formidably technical book, one replete with formulas and graphs, and chapter titles like "Optics Gaussian Formulas for Phakic and Piggyback IOLs." The book is richly illustrated with photographs and diagrams, although in some cases the tables are difficult to read. The best example is figure 27.20, a comparison chart of the characteristics of Artisan and Artiflex phakic intraocular lenses. The type in the chart is simply too small and too indistinct to be at all readable.

There are a few other examples scattered throughout the book of figures that are overly challenging to one's visual acuity. One has the sense of PowerPoint slides inserted directly into the text without much adjustment to the different demands of a book to a projected presentation.

As always with Jaypee Brothers' books, the contributors are a truly international bunch. This is reflected by the editors, with Ashok Garg himself from India, JT Lin in the US, Emanuel Rosen in the UK, Carlo F Lovisolo in Italy, Frank Jozef Goes in Belgium, and Boris Malyugin in Russia. We have 49 chapters, spread over five sections.

The book also comes with a DVD-ROM of one-and-a-half hours' duration which illustrates many clinical techniques and situations very well. It is a measure of a DVD-ROM that it is no longer a novelty with these kinds of books and that it feels like an integral part of the text rather than an innovative extra.

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