

Curbside Consultation in Cataract Surgery

49 Clinical Questions

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Preface

The informal “curbside consult” is a commonplace occurrence in every field of medicine. This is where a busy clinician, when faced with a diagnostic or treatment dilemma, solicits practical advice from a knowledgeable expert. Every day, these brief consultations take place in clinic hallways, over the telephone, and by email. The question is brief and concise. The advice is practical, to the point, and based upon that expert’s knowledge, judgment, and experience.

This textbook on cataract techniques seeks to provide a compendium of this information—answers to the thorny questions most commonly posed to specialists by practicing colleagues. This educational question-and-answer format is unique among other publications. Just as a curbside consult is distinguished from a lecture or an instruction course, so is this compilation different from a scientific journal or standard textbook. Most of these clinical questions do not individually merit a lecture, review article, or book chapter. In most cases, these questions are not answered definitively by the scientific literature.

The questions were compiled by my associate editors and myself and then posed to 49 of the top cataract consultants in North America. We have divided the book into 3 sections: preoperative, intraoperative, and postoperative questions. The advice from our surgical consultants is based upon personal experience, their review of the evidence-based literature, and in some cases, their own clinical studies. I asked that our consultants’ answers meet my 4 criteria of content—the 4 “Cs.” The advice must be current (timely), concise (summarizing), credible (evidence based), and clinically relevant (practical).

As you read, imagine that you have tracked down and then posed your question to a leading authority by email, telephone, or in person. Whether you read the book from cover to cover, read 1 question at a time (whenever your schedule allows), or simply employ this as a handy reference for when difficult problems arise, I hope that you will find this novel educational format to be both stimulating and useful.

David F. Chang, MD

Foreword

We ophthalmologists are frequently confronted with patients who represent unusual challenges, and in preparation for those cases, we may consult the literature, surgical atlases, and textbooks. However, most commonly, we call friends, colleagues, associates, or recognized experts in the particular area of challenge. Certainly, the faculty at major meetings are always confronted following their session with ophthalmologists who come to ask questions about one of their patients who present a unique challenge.

In this book, David F. Chang, MD has brought together recognized experts in cataract surgery and has given each of them a specific problem to address. The book is appropriately organized into 3 sections: preoperative, intraoperative, and postoperative questions. Each of the questions focuses on a highly specific problem. The authors are all well known and highly recognized for their ability to manage that particular problem and each author describes exactly how he or she handles that situation. The questions are precisely focused and appropriate without being exhaustive or overburdened with caveats. This is a very easily readable and interesting book. The concise nature of each of the questions allows for continuous reading; however, it will probably find its greater utilization as a reference source as surgeons return to the book to deal with a specific problem when it arises.

Dr. Chang is an internationally recognized surgeon, teacher, researcher, author, and clinician. It was a brilliant insight to recognize that there is a need for the book, and we are fortunate that he has organized the topics and brought together the faculty to address that need within our resource material. This is a book that will be helpful to every surgeon, from the novice to the expert, and will find its place among the most commonly referred-to sources by anterior segment surgeons.

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