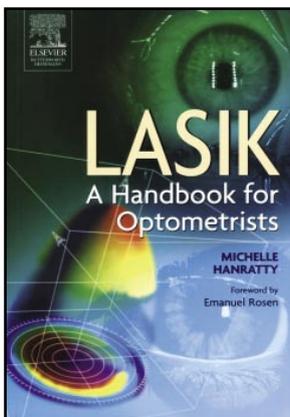


BOOK REVIEW



LASIK: A HANDBOOK FOR OPTOMETRISTS

Author: Michelle Hanratty

Publisher: Elsevier Butterworth-Heinemann, Edinburgh, 2005

ISBN: 0 7506 8809 2

Michelle Hanratty has produced a readable and informative text in **Lasik: a handbook for optometrists**. The book consists of ten chapters covering, I believe, most aspects of Lasik that an average optometrist might want to know about the subject. Admittedly, one or two chapters (or sections) are aimed specifically at optometrists practicing in the United Kingdom. The remainder of the book, however, gives many useful and informative selections of information.

The ten chapters are:

1. Guidelines, regulations and standards (mostly relevant to UK practitioners).
2. Referral to a laser eye clinic.
3. Pre-operative assessment - data collection.
4. Pre-operative assessment - eye examination.
5. Pre-operative assessment - patient counselling.
6. Treatment - the patient journey.
7. Postoperative assessment.
8. Postoperative complications.
9. Postoperative care.
10. The future - will LASEK supersede LASIK?

I experienced certain sections of the book being more informative than others. The section on criteria for optometric referral made me realize the importance of certain systemic diseases and medications that are contraindications for LASIK surgery (for example: auto-immune disease, the use of amiodarone, hydroxy-tryptamine and roaccutaine). The chapters on post-operative assessment and post-operative complications were instructive and well illustrated

with good-quality photographs of the various conditions that can arise following LASIK surgery. It is important for optometrists to know what corneal changes are normal following LASIK surgery so that unnecessary referrals to ophthalmologists are limited. Knowing which changes are not normal, and represent complications, is perhaps even more important for optometry. The last mentioned chapters give a good indication of which changes are normal and which are complications.

For the optometrist that has not made LASIK and its many accompanying nuances an area of interest and study, I would suggest that **LASIK: a handbook for optometrists** will provide the background to understanding the varied aspects of a refractive surgery that seems to be growing in popularity, predictability and success.

WDH Gillan

Optometric Science Research Group, Department of Optometry, University of Johannesburg, PO Box 524, Auckland Park, 2006 South Africa

<wdhg@na.rau.ac.za>