is the inclusion of the current patient consultation forms used in Dr Rootman's practice, which help the surgeon to efficiently complete a comprehensive orbital examination.

The remaining chapters of the book address orbital disease and treatment, including thyroid orbitopathy, orbital tumors, inflammation, infections, degeneration, and trauma. All chapters include both traditional and innovative approaches to treatment, and each chapter ends with an exhaustive up-to-date bibliography.

Overall, this text provides an easy-to-comprehend high level of detail appropriate for orbital surgeons, yet it does not sacrifice the broad overview necessary for surgeons in training or those in fields other than orbital surgery. It is useful both as a reference text and as a source for broad reading on the often complex world of orbital disease and treatment.

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eyeMaginationS 3.0: 3D Education Animation CD-ROM

requirements: Windows 95 or higher, 96 MB of RAM, 1.1 GB of free local disk space for full installation, 8-MB video card, 500-MHz processor; currently no Macintosh version, $300 annual fee, Towson, Md, eyeMaginations Inc, 2003.

Apprehension is a natural ingredient in every ophthalmologist's waiting room. It may evolve into fear before surgery or a laser procedure. In this setting, knowledge and understanding reassure the patient, and the more realistic the explanation, the better. However, time demands on practicing physicians are immense and not conducive to promoting meaningful discussions with each patient, and the commonly used plastic eye model does not satisfy the patient's desire for knowledge. If a picture is worth a thousand words, how about a 30-second animated explanation of peripheral laser iridotomy, insertion of a contact lens, or hyperopic LASIK?

The eyeMaginationS software is a user-friendly interface for combining and viewing patient education video clips on numerous topics in the field of ophthalmology. Most clips are simple and do not require prior knowledge or understanding. This software contains short standalone narrated video clips that can be assembled to form individualized presentations useful in the ophthalmologist's waiting room. The same video clips can easily be integrated in a slide presentation for teaching purposes, such as for medical students or candidates for LASIK. From a growing list of approximately 100 video animation clips totaling more than 75 minutes, one can create video presentations focusing on different aspects of eye care and procedures. In addition to animation clips, nearly 300 still images are available for implementation in slide presentations. The main menu contains the following categories: anatomy, refractive errors, ocular pathology, clinical procedures, and snapshots. Each category contains video clips including descriptions of various conditions, the patient's perspective, and treatment modalities. Combining several clips and still images results in a comprehensive custom-made video that lasts several minutes and is easy to make.

Video clip narration is provided in English, Italian, French, and Spanish. Skilled computer users can record narrations in their own voice and language. This software is a gradually expanding project, with additional animation clips added at a rate of 45 to 50 clips per year. We detected a significant improvement in the graphic quality of the animation clips recently added. Purchasing the software carries an initial cost, plus a fee for ongoing animation upgrades ($600 per year). A separate license is required for each additional computer installation; video clips will not run on computers unless the software has been installed.

Limitations include the demand for large local disk space (more than 1 GB) and the need for a wider selection of topics. Glaucoma experts, for instance, will find only 7 clips addressing their subspecialty. No clip addresses glaucoma incisional surgery, as yet.

In conclusion, we found eyeMaginationS to be a helpful tool for communicating the essence of eye conditions and care to patients, while minimizing the time demand on the practicing physician and staff. These video clips are short yet informative, the graphics are realistic and clear, and software operation is simple and intuitive. Physicians seeking another way to increase their patients' knowledge and alleviate their concerns may want to consider implementing this mode of communication in the waiting room and office.

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