name five accessory eye structures that contribute

Accessory Eye Structures: Five Key Contributors to Vision and Protection

name five accessory eye structures that contribute to the complex and vital process of sight, often working in concert with the eyeball itself to ensure clear vision and robust protection. These structures, though sometimes overlooked, play indispensable roles in lubricating, cleaning, shielding, and supporting the delicate ocular tissues. From the swift blink of an eyelid to the microscopic cleaning action of tears, each accessory structure is a testament to evolutionary design, enhancing visual acuity and preventing harm. Understanding these components provides a deeper appreciation for the intricate machinery of the eye and its remarkable ability to interact with the world. This article will delve into five such structures, exploring their unique functions and their collective importance in maintaining ocular health and visual performance.

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Eyelids: The Protective Shields

The eyelids, or palpebrae, are perhaps the most visible and frequently utilized accessory eye structures. They form a crucial barrier against physical injury, excessive light, and foreign particles. Composed of thin skin, muscle, and connective tissue, the upper and lower eyelids meet at the corners of the eye (canthi) to effectively seal the ocular surface when closed.

Function and Anatomy of Eyelids

The primary function of the eyelids is to protect the eye. They act like automatic shutters, closing rapidly in response to potential threats, such as a sudden gust of wind or a fast-approaching object. This protective reflex is essential for preventing corneal abrasions and other forms of damage. Internally, the eyelids are lined with a thin, transparent membrane called the conjunctiva, which also contributes to lubrication and protection. The muscles within the eyelids, specifically the orbicularis oculi and the levator palpebrae superioris, control their opening and closing, allowing for voluntary and involuntary movements.

The Role of Blinking in Eye Health

Blinking is an involuntary, rhythmic action that serves multiple vital purposes for eye health. Each blink sweeps a fresh layer of tear film across

the corneal surface, distributing moisture and nutrients. This constant rehydration prevents the cornea from drying out, which can lead to discomfort, blurred vision, and increased susceptibility to infection. Furthermore, blinking helps to clear away small particles of dust, debris, and shed epithelial cells, maintaining a clean visual field. The frequency of blinking can be influenced by factors such as fatigue, dryness, and concentration, highlighting its dynamic role in ocular comfort and function.

Eyelashes and Eyebrows: First Lines of Defense

Complementing the protective function of the eyelids are the eyelashes and eyebrows, which act as secondary barriers against environmental irritants. These structures, though small, play a significant role in preventing foreign matter from reaching the delicate surface of the eye.

Eyelashes: Trapping Debris

Eyelashes are short, stiff hairs that grow from the edges of the eyelids. They are highly sensitive to touch and trigger a blink reflex when even a small object comes into contact with them. Their primary role is to act as a physical barrier, catching dust, lint, insects, and other small particles that might otherwise enter the eye. By intercepting these irritants, eyelashes significantly reduce the risk of corneal abrasion and infection, contributing to overall ocular hygiene.

Eyebrows: Preventing Sweat and Debris

Eyebrows, located above the eyes, serve a similar protective purpose by intercepting sweat, rain, and debris falling from the forehead and scalp. The arch shape of the eyebrows, along with the direction of their hairs, effectively channels moisture away from the eyes. This prevents sweat, which can be salty and irritating, from entering the eyes and causing stinging or blurred vision. By diverting these substances, eyebrows help maintain a clear and comfortable visual environment.

Lacrimal Apparatus: The Tear Production and Drainage System

The lacrimal apparatus is a complex system responsible for the production, distribution, and drainage of tears, essential for lubricating, nourishing, and protecting the eye's surface.

Lacrimal Glands: Producing Tears

The principal lacrimal glands, located above and to the outer side of each eyeball, are responsible for producing the watery component of the tear film. These glands secrete tears in response to various stimuli, including irritation, emotion, and even certain medications. Tears are not merely water; they contain electrolytes, antibodies, enzymes, and other protective substances that combat infection and maintain corneal health. Meibomian glands, embedded in the eyelids, produce an oily layer that prevents rapid evaporation of tears, while goblet cells in the conjunctiva produce a mucous layer that helps spread the tears evenly.

Lacrimal Ducts and Sacs: Drainage Pathways

After tears have served their purpose of lubricating and cleaning the eye, they are drained away through a network of ducts. Tiny openings called puncta, located at the inner corners of the eyelids, collect the tears. These puncta lead to the lacrimal canaliculi, which then drain into the lacrimal sac. From the lacrimal sac, tears travel down the nasolacrimal duct and empty into the nasal cavity. This drainage system is crucial for preventing excessive tearing (epiphora) and maintaining the delicate balance of moisture on the ocular surface.

Conjunctiva: The Protective Inner Lining

The conjunctiva is a thin, transparent mucous membrane that lines the inner surface of the eyelids and covers the anterior sclera (the white part of the eye), but not the cornea. It plays a vital role in lubrication, protection, and immune surveillance.

Types of Conjunctiva and Their Roles

There are two main types of conjunctiva: the palpebral conjunctiva, which lines the inner surface of the eyelids, and the bulbar conjunctiva, which covers the visible portion of the sclera. The palpebral conjunctiva is firmly attached, while the bulbar conjunctiva is loosely attached to allow for eye movement. The conjunctiva contains goblet cells that produce mucin, a component of the tear film that helps to spread tears evenly and keep the ocular surface moist. It also contains blood vessels that nourish the eye and immune cells that help defend against pathogens.

Conjunctivitis: An Example of Disruption

Inflammation of the conjunctiva, known as conjunctivitis or "pink eye," is a common condition that highlights the importance of this accessory structure.

When the conjunctiva becomes infected or irritated, it can lead to redness, swelling, itching, and discharge. This inflammation can impair the normal functioning of the eye, causing discomfort and affecting vision. The ease with which the conjunctiva can become inflamed underscores its role as a frontline defense and its sensitivity to external factors.

Extrinsic Eye Muscles: Enabling Eye Movement

While not typically thought of as "accessory" in the same vein as the soft tissues, the extrinsic eye muscles are crucial accessory structures that facilitate eye movement and are therefore integral to the visual process.

The Six Muscles and Their Actions

Each eyeball is controlled by six extrinsic muscles: four rectus muscles (superior, inferior, medial, and lateral) and two oblique muscles (superior and inferior). These muscles originate from the bones of the eye socket and insert onto the sclera of the eyeball. Their coordinated contractions allow for a wide range of eye movements, including looking up, down, left, right, and rotational movements. These muscles enable us to track moving objects, shift our gaze quickly between different points of interest, and maintain stable vision during head movements.

Coordination for Smooth Gaze

The ability to move our eyes smoothly and precisely is a remarkable feat of neurological coordination. The extrinsic eye muscles work in tandem, with opposing muscles relaxing as their counterparts contract. This intricate balance ensures that eye movements are fluid, controlled, and efficient. Without the precise control afforded by these muscles, our visual experience would be fragmented and chaotic, hindering our ability to interact effectively with our surroundings. Their contribution is fundamental to the act of seeing.

Frequently Asked Questions

Besides the eyeball itself, what are five accessory eye structures that significantly contribute to vision and eye health?

The five key accessory eye structures are the eyelids, eyelashes, conjunctiva, lacrimal apparatus, and extrinsic eye muscles.

How do eyelids contribute to our vision and eye protection?

Eyelids act as shutters, protecting the eye from foreign objects, excessive light, and drying out. They also spread tears across the ocular surface during blinking, which is crucial for lubrication and cleansing.

What is the primary role of eyelashes in relation to the eye?

Eyelashes act as a first line of defense, trapping dust particles and other debris, preventing them from entering the eye and potentially causing irritation or damage.

Explain the function of the conjunctiva as an accessory eye structure.

The conjunctiva is a thin, transparent membrane that lines the inner surface of the eyelids and covers the white part of the eyeball (sclera). It lubricates the eye and helps to protect it from infection.

What components make up the lacrimal apparatus, and what is its overall purpose?

The lacrimal apparatus consists of the lacrimal glands (producing tears), lacrimal ducts, lacrimal sac, and nasolacrimal duct. Its primary purpose is to produce, distribute, and drain tears, which are essential for lubrication, cleaning, and nourishing the cornea.

What are the extrinsic eye muscles, and why are they important for vision?

The extrinsic eye muscles are a group of six muscles that surround the eyeball. They are responsible for controlling the movement of the eyes, allowing us to track objects, focus, and converge our gaze, all of which are vital for binocular vision.

Can you elaborate on how the accessory structures work together to maintain eye comfort and clarity?

Yes, for example, eyelids spread tears produced by the lacrimal apparatus, which are then kept on the cornea by the conjunctiva. Eyelashes and eyelids protect this moist surface from debris, and the extrinsic muscles allow us to direct our gaze to see clearly.

What potential problems can arise if these accessory eye structures are compromised?

Compromise to these structures can lead to dry eyes, infections (conjunctivitis), impaired vision due to lack of lubrication or debris, reduced eye movement, and increased risk of injury.

Additional Resources

Here are 9 book titles, each with a short description, related to accessory eye structures:

- 1. The Eyelid's Embrace: Guardians of the Orb
 This book delves into the intricate structure and vital functions of the
 eyelids. It explores their role in protection, lubrication through blinking,
 and the fascinating musculature that allows for both voluntary and
 involuntary control. Readers will gain a deeper appreciation for these mobile
 shields that safeguard the delicate surface of the eye from harm and dryness.
- 2. Tears of Life: The Lacrimal System's Symphony An exploration of the production, distribution, and drainage of tears. This volume details the anatomy of the lacrimal glands and ducts, explaining how they maintain ocular surface health and provide essential lubrication. It also addresses the emotional and physiological significance of tears, portraying them as more than just a response to sadness.
- 3. Conjunctiva's Veil: A Window to Well-being
 This book focuses on the thin, transparent membrane that lines the inner
 surface of the eyelids and covers the white part of the eyeball. It discusses
 the conjunctiva's crucial role in protecting the eye from foreign particles
 and its role in immune defense. The text also examines common conditions
 affecting this delicate tissue, offering insights into maintaining its
 health.
- 4. The Puncta's Path: Draining the Ocular Ocean
 This title examines the small openings in the inner corners of the eyelids
 that serve as the entry points for tear drainage. The book details the
 anatomy and function of the lacrimal puncta, canaliculi, lacrimal sac, and
 nasolacrimal duct. It sheds light on how this system prevents tear overflow
 and maintains the delicate balance of the ocular environment.
- 5. Orbital Anatomy: The Bony Cradle of Vision
 This comprehensive work explores the complex bony structure that houses and protects the eye. It details the various bones of the orbit and their articulations, explaining how this cavity provides a secure framework for the eyeball and its associated muscles and nerves. The book highlights the evolutionary significance of this protective housing.
- 6. The Eyelash's Edge: Sentinels of the Sightline

This volume investigates the role of eyelashes as a natural defense mechanism for the eyes. It explores their structure, how they work in conjunction with the eyelids to deflect dust and debris, and their contribution to preventing moisture loss. The book offers a detailed look at these seemingly small but functionally significant hairs.

- 7. Muscles of Motion: Guiding the Gaze
 This book delves into the extrinsic muscles of the eye responsible for
 precise and coordinated eye movements. It describes the anatomy and
 innervation of these six muscles, explaining how they work together to allow
 us to track objects, focus, and maintain binocular vision. Readers will
 understand the sophisticated mechanics behind every glance.
- 8. The Lacrimal Gland: The Source of the Shining Pool Dedicated to the primary producer of the tear film, this book provides an indepth look at the lacrimal gland. It covers its histological structure, the physiological processes of tear secretion, and the neural control that regulates its activity. The text also explores how dysfunction of this gland can lead to conditions like dry eye syndrome.
- 9. Protecting the Pupil: The Blinking Shield
 This title focuses on the combined protective action of the eyelids and
 blinking reflex. It examines how the rapid closure of the eyelids safeguards
 the cornea from potential injury and environmental irritants. The book also
 touches upon the neurological pathways involved in this essential protective
 reflex.

Name Five Accessory Eye Structures That Contribute

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Name Five Accessory Eye Structures That Contribute to Vision

Ebook Outline:

Title: Understanding the Accessory Structures of the Eye: A Comprehensive Guide

Author: Dr. Evelyn Reed (Fictional Author - Replace with your name/appropriate author)

Contents:

Introduction: The importance of accessory structures in overall eye health and visual function. Brief overview of the five structures discussed.

Chapter 1: Eyelids (Palpebrae): Structure, function (protection, lubrication, tear distribution), and associated disorders (blepharitis, ptosis).

Chapter 2: Conjunctiva: Anatomy, function (protection, lubrication), and diseases (conjunctivitis).

Chapter 3: Lacrimal Apparatus: Components (lacrimal gland, ducts, sac, and nasolacrimal duct), tear production and drainage, and disorders (dry eye, dacryocystitis).

Chapter 4: Extrinsic Eye Muscles: Six muscles, their actions (movement and coordination), and related conditions (strabismus, diplopia).

Chapter 5: Orbit: Structure (bones, fat, nerves, blood vessels), protection of the eye, and disorders (orbital cellulitis, fractures).

Conclusion: Recap of the vital roles of accessory structures, emphasizing their interdependence and overall contribution to healthy vision.

Name Five Accessory Eye Structures That Contribute to Vision

The human eye, a marvel of biological engineering, relies not only on its internal components like the lens and retina for clear vision, but also on a network of supporting structures. These accessory structures, often overlooked, play crucial roles in protecting, lubricating, and moving the eye, ensuring its optimal function. This article delves into five key accessory eye structures: eyelids, conjunctiva, lacrimal apparatus, extrinsic eye muscles, and the orbit, detailing their anatomy, function, and clinical significance. Understanding these structures is vital for appreciating the complexity and fragility of the visual system.

1. Eyelids (Palpebrae): The Protective Shields

The eyelids, or palpebrae, are mobile folds of skin that cover and protect the anterior surface of the eye. Their primary function is to shield the eye from foreign bodies, such as dust, debris, and insects, preventing damage to the cornea and conjunctiva. This protective role is crucial for maintaining visual acuity and preventing infection. The eyelids also contribute significantly to tear film distribution. During blinking, the eyelids spread the tear film evenly across the ocular surface, ensuring proper lubrication and preventing dryness.

Anatomy: The eyelids are composed of several layers: skin, subcutaneous tissue, orbicularis oculi muscle (responsible for eyelid closure), tarsal plates (fibrous connective tissue providing structural support), conjunctiva (lining the inner surface of the eyelid), and eyelashes. The meibomian glands, located within the tarsal plates, secrete an oily substance that prevents tear evaporation.

Clinical Significance: Disorders of the eyelids are common and can significantly impact vision and quality of life. Blepharitis, inflammation of the eyelid margins, is a prevalent condition often caused by bacterial infection or seborrheic dermatitis. Ptosis, drooping of the upper eyelid, can result from neuromuscular disorders or damage to the oculomotor nerve, obstructing vision. Other eyelid conditions include chalazion (blocked meibomian gland), hordeolum (stye), and ectropion/entropion

2. Conjunctiva: The Mucous Membrane Protector

The conjunctiva is a thin, transparent mucous membrane that lines the inner surface of the eyelids (palpebral conjunctiva) and covers the sclera (white of the eye) (bulbar conjunctiva). Its function is multifaceted, primarily providing protection and lubrication. The conjunctiva acts as a barrier against foreign bodies and pathogens, preventing their direct access to the cornea. It also plays a vital role in tear film production and distribution, contributing to the overall health and integrity of the ocular surface.

Anatomy: The conjunctiva is composed of stratified columnar epithelium, goblet cells (producing mucin), and underlying connective tissue. A rich network of blood vessels provides nourishment and contributes to its rapid healing capabilities.

Clinical Significance: Conjunctivitis, commonly known as pinkeye, is an inflammation of the conjunctiva often caused by viral, bacterial, or allergic reactions. Symptoms include redness, itching, tearing, and discharge. Other conjunctival disorders include pterygium (a fleshy growth on the conjunctiva), subconjunctival hemorrhage (ruptured blood vessels), and dry eye disease (insufficient tear production or abnormal tear film composition).

3. Lacrimal Apparatus: The Tear Production and Drainage System

The lacrimal apparatus is responsible for producing, distributing, and draining tears. This intricate system is essential for maintaining the health and functionality of the ocular surface. Tears provide lubrication, remove debris, and contain antibacterial substances, protecting the eye from infection and dryness. The system comprises several components:

Components:

Lacrimal gland: Located in the superior temporal region of the orbit, the lacrimal gland produces tears.

Excretory ducts: These ducts carry tears from the lacrimal gland onto the surface of the conjunctiva.

Lacrimal puncta: Two small openings located at the inner canthus of each eyelid. Lacrimal canaliculi: Small tubes that drain tears from the puncta to the lacrimal sac.

Lacrimal sac: A small reservoir that collects tears before they enter the nasolacrimal duct.

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Nasolacrimal duct: A canal that drains tears into the nasal cavity.

Clinical Significance: Disruptions in the lacrimal apparatus can lead to various disorders. Dry eye disease, characterized by insufficient tear production or abnormal tear composition, causes dryness, irritation, and blurred vision. Dacryocystitis, inflammation of the lacrimal sac, often results from obstruction of the nasolacrimal duct, leading to pain, swelling, and purulent discharge.

4. Extrinsic Eye Muscles: The Movers and Shakers

Six extrinsic eye muscles control the movement of each eye. These muscles, originating from the orbit and inserting onto the sclera, work in coordination to ensure precise and coordinated eye movements, essential for binocular vision (using both eyes together). Their precise control allows for smooth pursuit of moving objects, convergence (turning the eyes inward to focus on near objects), and divergence (turning the eyes outward to focus on distant objects).

Muscles and Actions: The six extrinsic eye muscles are the superior rectus, inferior rectus, medial rectus, lateral rectus, superior oblique, and inferior oblique. Each muscle performs a specific action, and their coordinated contraction results in complex eye movements.

Clinical Significance: Disorders affecting the extrinsic eye muscles can cause strabismus (misalignment of the eyes), resulting in double vision (diplopia). Strabismus can develop due to neuromuscular abnormalities, cranial nerve palsies, or other neurological conditions. Other disorders include myasthenia gravis (neuromuscular weakness), and thyroid eye disease (Graves' ophthalmopathy).

5. Orbit: The Protective Bony Socket

The orbit is the bony socket that houses the eyeball, extrinsic eye muscles, lacrimal gland, nerves, and blood vessels. It provides structural support and protection for the delicate components of the eye. The orbital walls are formed by seven bones, which help to cushion the eye against trauma. The orbital fat pad cushions the eye and helps to maintain its position. The orbit also contains vital nerves and blood vessels that supply the eye with sensory input and nourishment.

Anatomy: The orbit is composed of the frontal, zygomatic, maxillary, sphenoid, ethmoid, lacrimal, and palatine bones.

Clinical Significance: Orbital disorders can have serious consequences. Orbital cellulitis, an infection of the orbital tissues, can cause pain, swelling, proptosis (protrusion of the eyeball), and potentially vision loss. Orbital fractures, often caused by trauma, can result in diplopia, enophthalmos (recession of the eyeball), and damage to the optic nerve. Other conditions include tumors, arteriovenous malformations (AVMs), and inflammatory processes.

Conclusion

The accessory structures of the eye are integral to its function and overall health. Their intricate interplay ensures protection, lubrication, movement, and proper tear film dynamics, all vital for maintaining clear, comfortable vision. Understanding the anatomy and clinical significance of these structures is crucial for ophthalmologists, optometrists, and other healthcare professionals involved

in the diagnosis and management of eye diseases. Early detection and intervention are key to preserving visual acuity and preventing irreversible damage.

FAQs

- 1. What is the most common eyelid disorder? Blepharitis is one of the most prevalent eyelid conditions.
- 2. What causes dry eye? Dry eye can result from insufficient tear production, abnormal tear composition, or excessive tear evaporation.
- 3. How are tears produced and drained? Tears are produced by the lacrimal gland and drained through the lacrimal puncta, canaliculi, lacrimal sac, and nasolacrimal duct.
- 4. What is strabismus? Strabismus is a condition where the eyes are misaligned.
- 5. What causes orbital cellulitis? Orbital cellulitis is usually caused by a bacterial infection spreading from nearby structures like the sinuses.
- 6. What is the function of the conjunctiva? The conjunctiva protects the eye and aids in tear film production and distribution.
- 7. Can damage to the extrinsic eye muscles affect vision? Yes, damage can lead to double vision (diplopia) and misalignment of the eyes (strabismus).
- 8. What is the role of the orbital bones? The orbital bones protect the eye from injury.
- 9. How does the lacrimal apparatus contribute to eye health? The lacrimal apparatus maintains the ocular surface health by producing, distributing, and draining tears.

Related Articles:

- 1. Blepharitis: Causes, Symptoms, and Treatment: A detailed look at eyelid inflammation.
- 2. Dry Eye Syndrome: A Comprehensive Guide: Exploring the causes, symptoms, and management of dry eye.
- 3. Conjunctivitis: Types, Symptoms, and Treatment Options: An overview of pinkeye and its various forms.
- 4. Understanding Strabismus: Diagnosis and Treatment Strategies: A guide to eye misalignment.
- 5. Orbital Cellulitis: Diagnosis, Treatment, and Prevention: In-depth information on orbital infection.
- 6. The Anatomy and Physiology of the Lacrimal Apparatus: A deeper dive into the tear production and drainage system.
- 7. Extrinsic Eye Muscles: Function and Clinical Significance: A detailed review of eye movement control.
- 8. The Role of the Orbit in Protecting the Eye: Focusing on the protective function of the bony socket.
- 9. Meibomian Gland Dysfunction (MGD): Causes, Symptoms, and Management: A look at a common cause of dry eye.

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Pine, Brian H. Sloan, Robert J. Jacobs, 2015-07-10 This is the first textbook to offer a comprehensive account of ocular prosthetics and the evidence used to underpin and support this field of healthcare. It does so by bringing together information from ophthalmology, prosthetic eye and contact lens literature, and from experts actively engaged in these fields. The book describes the psychological, anatomical and physiological aspects of eye loss as well as surgical procedures for removing the eye, patient evaluation, constructing prosthetic eyes (including prosthetic and surgical techniques for dealing with socket complications), the socket's response to prosthetic eyes, prosthetic eye maintenance and the history of prosthetic eyes. Though primarily intended for prosthetists, ophthalmologists, ophthalmic nurses, optometrists and students in the fields of ocular medicine, maxillofacial medicine and anaplastology, the book also offers a useful resource for other health workers and family members who care for prosthetic eye patients, and for those patients seeking a deeper understanding of the issues affecting them than they can find elsewhere.

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unintended exposure of ocular tissues to xenobiotics. Ocular Toxicity in Laboratory Animals provides a concise reference addressing ocular anatomy and physiology across species that will enhance the design and interpretation of toxicology studies conducted for regulatory purposes. The book provides an overview of routine and advanced techniques that are used to assess ocular toxicity including slit lamp biomicroscopy, indirect ophthalmoscopy, electrophysiology and imaging methods for the anterior and posterior segments of the eye. Additionally, the book defines the regulatory expectations for pharmaceuticals intended to treat ocular diseases and for other non-pharmaceutical regulated chemicals. With contributions from experts in the field, Ocular Toxicity in Laboratory Animals is an authoritative, accessible guide for toxicologists and other scientists involved in conducting toxicology studies for regulatory purposes and/or reviewing data from such studies.

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nurses, medical students, residents, fellows and even ophthalmologists, to help them making the most appropriate decision on the management of patients who have suffered from such ocular conditions. A thorough understanding of the anatomy of the eyeball and the traumatic characteristics of each structure of the eyeball are a prerequisite for proper interpretation of long-term outcomes of mechanical eye injuries. The first part provides the audiences general information of ocular anatomy, which will help them understand the basic anatomic knowledge and generate a clinical thinking. The following part provides the detailed examinations. They will help readers to make the right diagnose and offer the best advice or treatment to the patients. For each chapter, detailed clinical workup, clinical presentations and signs, and pictures or illustrative figures will be provided. Part 3 will benefit more medical coworkers to be familiar with the registration system of ocular trauma and its social and medical meaning. This will also help the advances of epidemiology and proper treatment approaches for ocular trauma. Hopefully this book may help the clinical practitioners to be fully prepared for any challenge of ocular traumatic cases.

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dacryologists, oculoplastic surgeons, general ophthalmologists as well as fellows in training.

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Naumann, D.J. Apple, 2012-12-06 It is indeed a pleasure to write a foreword for this spectacular book which represents a landmark in the history of ocular pathology. Not since the three volumes of the Henke-Lubarsch handbook appeared forty years ago has anything like this come on the market. This book represents a compre hensive, thorough and up-to-date clinically oriented textbook on ocular pathology. We are all indebted to the senior author, who is now professor of ophthal mology at the University of Erlangen, who presents us here with the fruit of decades of industrious endeavors. We also have to be grateful to the American ophthalmic pathologist, Dr. David Apple, who, as one of the main collaborators of the German edition, has now provided us with the English translation. The book has a twofold purpose: First, it is meant to be a source of instruction for ophthalmologists and pathologists. For that purpose it is beautifully illustrated both by clinical pictures and by excellent photomicro graphs and electromicroscopic pictures. Most valuable from a didactic point of view are the colored schematic drawings and the many tables. These two features are practically unique and should help any neophyte in grasp ing the principles of ocular pathology.

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