

Drugs and the Eye

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Preface

This book is concerned with all aspects of drug action in the eye which are of relevance to the ophthalmic optician or optometrist. It contains a concise discussion of relevant ocular anatomy and physiology so that the actions and uses of drugs may be put on a rational basis. The major groups of drugs used by the ophthalmic optician are discussed in detail and each section includes a discussion of the practical aspects of drug use. The groups of drugs covered include: cycloplegics, mydriatics, miotics, local anaesthetics, staining agents, antimicrobial agents, decongestants, antihistamines and anti-inflammatory agents. There are separate chapters dealing with first aid and emergency measures and with the legal aspects of the sale and supply of drugs commonly used in the eye. At the time of going to press some of the Acts covering the sale and supply of drugs are being repealed and replaced by new Acts. However, it is not expected that the changes will significantly modify the requirements placed on the ophthalmic optician.

A chapter on the ocular effects of drugs used systemically contains details not only of the ocular effects of named drugs but also of the conditions for which these drugs are likely to be used. There is a section on the solutions used in contact lens work, which deals both with the drugs used by the ophthalmic optician during fitting and those used by the patient in lens care. In each chapter the official (BP or BPC) preparations are listed and there is a section on the formulation of preparations for the eye. The physico-chemical properties underlying the absorption of drugs through the cornea are expanded so that the rationale behind the choice of a particular drug form and formulation may be understood.

As a whole, the book is designed to be a detailed yet concise account of drugs and their use in the eye.

It is intended that this book should be a working guide for qualified ophthalmic opticians/optometrists. However, since it contains considerable discussion not only of the practical aspects of drug use in the eye but also of the basic principles underlying this use, it should be invaluable to students reading for a degree or diploma in ophthalmic optics and optometry. As the book contains a detailed account of drug action in the eye and information on the diagnostic techniques it should be of value to the medical and allied professions. In this context it should be of interest to students of medicine, physiology, pharmacy, and pharmacology and also to nurses.

M.J.V.
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