

Preface

The management of emergent neuro-ophthalmic conditions can be a life saving encounter for the general ophthalmologist. This book is designed to help the comprehensive ophthalmologist to make emergency triage decisions for initial evaluation and treatment of potentially vision- or life-threatening conditions. This text is case-based and is intended to provide the reader with the opinion and expertise of two neuro-ophthalmologists. One, Dr. Lee is an ophthalmology-based neuro-ophthalmologist and the other, Dr. Brazis is a neurology-based neuro-ophthalmologist. Dr. Moghul and Dr. Policeni collected and collated the case vignettes during their fellowship with Dr. Lee at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

It is the goal of this text to provide a concise, easy to read, and practical guide to the emergent evaluation of these neuro-ophthalmic conditions. This book is designed to be a quick read and not to be all inclusive or comprehensive. The reader is directed to longer and more comprehensive neuro-ophthalmic texts for this information. It is also not our intention to provide anatomy, pharmacology, physiology, or other basic mechanisms of disease. Instead, this text is meant to be a quick reference and resource for the clinician in the emergency room or in the clinic facing a potentially vision- or life-threatening emergency and to provide immediate guidance for potentially “high stakes” decision making. We also wish to emphasize that the recommendations of this text represent the authors’ own opinions on management and are not intended to be, nor should they be, construed as a “standard of care.” The case vignettes are based upon real clinical cases but the clinical details of each case have

been modified for teaching purposes and represent composite rather than individual histories.

Each case vignette is composed of the relevant and concise medical history; the neuro-ophthalmic exam findings; the clinical and exam findings with demonstrative figures; and finally the expert opinion for management provided by Dr. Lee and Dr. Brazis.

We hope that the reader will enjoy the format and content of this text and we invite comments and feedback on the utility of our work.

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