

Lens Implantation

30 Years of Progress

P. LEONARD and J. ROMMEL

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Dr. W. JUNK PUBLISHERS THE HAGUE - BOSTON - LONDON

REPRINTED FROM Bull. Soc. belge Ophtal. 194, 1982

Distributors:

for the United States and Canada

Kluwer Boston Inc.
190 Old Derby Street
Hingham, MA 02043
USA

for all other countries

Kluwer Academic Publishing Group
Distribution Center
P.O. Box 322
3300 AH Dordrecht
The Netherlands

ISBN 90-6193-804-X (this volume)

ISBN 90-6193-894-5 (series)

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Dr W. Junk Publishers, The Hague, The Netherlands.

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Dr W. Junk Publishers, P.O. Box 13713, 2501 ES The Hague, The Netherlands.

PRINTED IN BELGIUM

FOREWORD

The authors of this book are busy practical men with no particular barrow to push.

The text of the book includes a comprehensive review of all aspects of intraocular lens surgery including details of the design, optics chemistry and sterilization of intraocular lenses. Its value is enhanced by excellent illustrations and extensive tabulated references to the literature.

Accounts of patient acceptability are balanced against candid discussion of complications and their management.

The historical introduction recalls that in the early stages of development of the art, over a period of 10 years, two dozen different lens designs were proposed, most claiming elimination of problems which had arisen with their predecessors. Eventually nearly all disappeared from the scene.

In an age where every cataract surgeon has to determine a personal position on intraocular lens implantation the author's reflections on these matters are timely. Intraocular lenses are neither a miracle nor a menace, provided that personal decisions and preferences are carefully thought through and put into practice upon the basis of known facts and not upon the basis of fickle fashion and fad.

This book provides a background upon which the reader can evaluate in his own mind the validity of information provided by the manufacturers of various lens designs.

In practice it is emphasized that, however helpful videotape and film presentations may be, there is no substitute for proper surgical apprenticeship as with any other kind of operation. The author's background of protracted apprenticeship and subsequent practice in intraocular lens surgery adds weight to their words.

It is my pleasure to comment their objectivity, scholarship and industry, and to express my conviction that they have produced an outstanding book of reference.

C.D. Binkhorst, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Terneuzen, 23 October 1981.

INTRODUCTION

In the late seventies, the Belgian Ophthalmological Society honored us with the assignment of constructing a report on the evolution and the current concepts of lens implantation and the rehabilitation of the cataract patient.

Our intention is to give a critical overview of what has happened in the area of lens implantation over the last 30 years and how this evolution has led to the present situation at the beginning of the 1980's. We thus describe the possibilities and the limitations of the classic lens models and the surgical techniques associated with them. We hope this information will form a guide for the evaluation of the full range of existing and future lens types. It is also with this intention that we discuss the materials from which the lenses are manufactured, their optical qualities, and the various sterilization methods. Finally, on the basis of the data at our disposal and our own experience, we discuss the effects of the implant lens on the surrounding eye structures.

We owe a great deal of thanks Cornelius D. Binkhorst, who introduced us in the 1960's to the world of lens implantation. He not only taught us the techniques, but also, and most importantly, gave us the principles of sound surgical judgment. His immediate contribution to the present work consisted of placing all of his photographic materials at our disposal.

Our thanks also go to Professor Emeritus M.C. Colenbrander and Professor J.A. Oosterhuis of Leiden and to Professor L. Missotten of Leuven, who years ago entrusted us with the beginning of lens implantation in their respective services.

We must also express our gratitude to all those who have helped by word and deed in the preparation of this work. They are too numerous to list here.

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