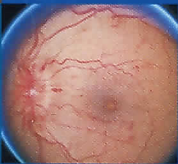
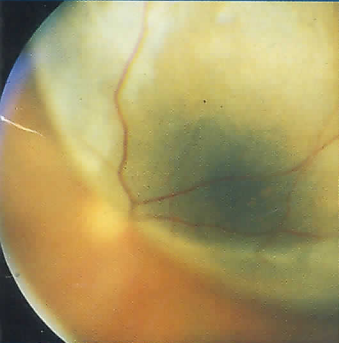
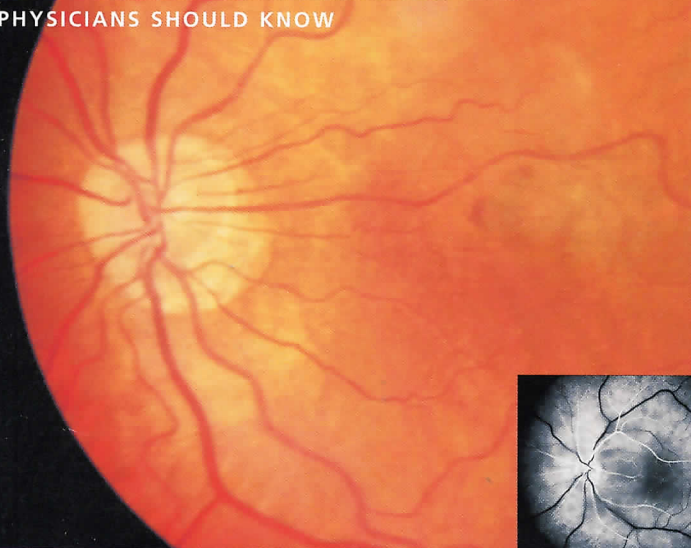


The Revealing Retina

WHAT ALL PHYSICIANS SHOULD KNOW



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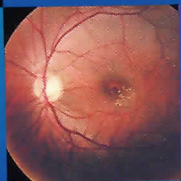
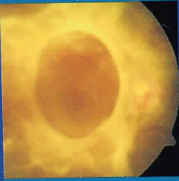
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THE OLD ADAGE IS THAT

“the eyes are the
windows to the soul.”

Yet, developments in modern
scientific technology have
revealed that the eye is also
a window to the body.



Preface

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF RETINA SPECIALISTS is pleased to provide this booklet for use by all doctors to help identify important retinal diseases and to aid in monitoring systemic diseases through retinal examination.

The old adage is that “the eyes are the windows to the soul.” Yet, developments in modern scientific technology have revealed that the eye is also a window to the body. Indeed, the innermost region of the eye provides the key that allows the trained retina specialist to open the door to the diagnosis and management of many systemic diseases such as diabetes and hypertension.

The retina is under 300 microns thick and is an extension of the brain. Nowhere else in the body is such critical evidence of systemic disease clustered within so small an area. Tremendous advances in medical technology have provided the tools that enable retina surgeons to perform on this neural tissue some of the most delicate and complex microsurgeries in all of medicine and now save vision where there had been no hope.

In 1864, when ophthalmology was founded as the first specialty in modern medicine, what was known about vision was limited to what could be seen with the naked eye and the direct ophthalmoscope. Of the numerous subspecialties that have grown from the original field of ophthalmology, retina has grown exponentially. Landmarks in the subspecialty of retina include the development of retinal detachment surgery in 1949, the invention of laser surgery and fluorescein angiography in the '60s, closed pars plana vitrectomy in 1970, digital imaging, indocyanine green angiography, optical coherence tomography in the '90s and, most recently, photodynamic treatment and intravitreal medical therapies that are able to alter neovascular processes. Retina surgery has developed into its own very unique subspecialty, requiring extensive fellowship training.

Today's retina specialists strive to combine cutting edge technology with clinical medicine to achieve optimal results in healing. What the retina specialist can determine about disease through examination of the optic nerve head and the retina benefits patients and their

physicians beyond the scope of a single specialty. Working closely with primary care physicians, cardiologists, endocrinologists, renal specialists, infectious disease specialists, hematologists, oncologists and other eye care providers, the retina specialist can accurately predict future progression of conditions such as diabetes.

The American Society of Retina Specialists was founded in 1982 to meet the needs of this rapidly evolving subspecialty. The organization now represents approximately three-fourths of the retina specialists in America and is the largest retinal organization in the world. A primary mission is to promote patient care, create standardized training programs, and eventually to develop separate subspecialty board certification for the uniquely qualified retina specialist.

We would like to thank the board of the American Society of Retina Specialists, the Vitreous Foundation, and the Ophthalmology Section Council of the American Medical Association, along with its member organizations. Together, we are extending the limits of knowledge and advancing medical science so conditions that have led to blindness in the past are now being controlled or eradicated. Prevention is still the best medicine, and the American Society of Retina Specialists will continue to work hand in hand with all medical organizations to educate patients and physicians, and pave the way towards excellence in patient care.

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