

Quo vadis neuro-ophthalmology ?!

A review of Neuro-Ophthalmology

Book edited by Judit Somlai and Tibor Kovács

Published by Springer International, Switzerland, 2016

717 pages

Available **for purchase** in hard copy or as an ebook - in English

<http://www.springer.com/gp/book/9783319289540>

Available **for having an insight** into the parts of the book - in English

<https://books.google.hu/books?id=wmZBDAAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover>

Available **for reading the full text** - in Hungarian

http://www.nosza.eu/nokonyv_elektro.php

Quo vadis neuro-ophthalmology ?! Currently, this is **the main issue** on the borderline of neurology and ophthalmology. And this is a book where you can find great **arguments, pros and cons** - both theoretical and clinical-practice-wise.

The current 4th edition of the book in English has been based on 3 previous editions in Hungarian, edited by Judit Somlai and Tibor Kovács, and authored by about 50 other contributors. They have produced a textbook that has been accomplished and managed with great skills, and easily equal to any that has come before in this topic.

From theoretical point of view, the main question of neuro-ophthalmology currently is what the role and importance of neuro-ophthalmology is for both ophthalmologists and neurologists. In other words, where and how to think beyond intraocular visual pathway and intraorbital eyeball disorders - looking for a complete diagnosis and therapy for visual impairments. Thinking it moreover, having read this book, it becomes obvious that a **neuro-ophthalmology curriculum** should be part of **education** for both ophthalmologists and neurologists. (As a specialist examination in ophthalmology, or as an **interdisciplinary** licence examination for ophthalmologists and neurologists.)

For clinical practitioners, the book serves as a how-to guidebook, providing practical answers for all aspects of neuro-ophthalmology and its connecting/related professions.

As there currently are a lot of great textbooks available for the reader, we should have a look at the **novelty of this book**, what distinguishes it from the others.

First of all, the book highlights the **importance of TEAM work** in neuro-ophthalmology cases of neurologists, neurosurgeons, ophthalmologists and others. As an example, the book has been accomplished by such a team. Neither early and complete differential diagnosis, nor adequate treatment of vision can be reached without the knowledge of neurological and other **background disorders**.

First, it introduces all the important aspects and fields of intracranial optic nerve system, its disorders, looking for the background of ophthalmological **symptomatology** and neurological **pathomechanism**. In addition, the book provides the most recent **therapies** too.

Second, it presents the importance of neuro-ophthalmology in **case studies of big group of diseases**, such as multiple sclerosis, stroke, intracranial traumatic or space-occupied disorders, etc.

Third, it underlines the **importance of early recognition** in neuro-ophthalmology. Even almost irreversible progressions can be contained with early recognition and adequate therapy. Especially, double vision, diplopia with hidden onset, caused by intracranial origin.

Fourth, **the whole palette of tools** for diagnoses and therapies have been demonstrated - both traditional and recent ones. From neuroradiological methods of diagnosis via traditional pharmaceutical and neurosurgical therapies, and recent systemic treatments.

It has not been decided and “guided” yet, **where should be filtered out and treated the patients with neuro-ophthalmological diseases**. This book suggests that

- firstly the ophthalmologist should give an exact differential diagnosis; and
- secondly, adequate systemic-, neurological- and neurosurgical treatment might solve the vision impairments caused by intracranial-retroocular and optic nerve disorders, in addition to retroorbital central eye movements disorders - if there is a treatment for that.
- Finally, and most importantly, the issue of **visual rehabilitation** has comprehensively been covered in this book. People living with irreversible vision loss, mono- or binocular visual loss, double vision and similar diseases - they very well deserve these chapters. Patients with visual loss should be **reintegrated into the society of the sighted**. This is in the interest of all, the patients, his/her family, and the society too. And nowadays, there are plenty of ways and means for rehabilitation by the recent neuro-psychological, informatics and social rehabilitation tools and knowledge. All of them are very well demonstrated in the book.

I am sure that the reader will find this book useful, as I have found. There are a lot of fine textbooks available for the reader in the topic of neuro-ophthalmology, but there is none any better than this one - so at least, you should take a look at this book.

Josef FLAMMER

- Professor Emeritus
University of Basel (Switzerland)
- Former Head of Department of
Ophthalmology,
University of Basel (Switzerland)
- Former Dean of the Faculty of Medicine,
University of Basel (Switzerland)
- Eponym of the Flammer Syndrome