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## CD ROM REVIEW

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**Medical Retina.** BMJ 1999. £99.00.  
ISBN No. 0-7279-1273-9.

This is an excellent addition to available medical retina teaching.

The Programme runs directly from the CD using Windows 3.1 or above and Internet Explorer (v3, preferably v4). I tested it on a PII system running at 333 MHz using Windows 98 and IE v5.5 from a x32 CD drive. All pictures, text and links loaded quickly and smoothly. The interface is consistent and intuitive and very much one of the strengths of the CD.

The program is divided into six sections: Case Histories, Topic Teaching, MCQs, Images, Treatment Animations and Electrophysiology. There is also an effective search engine.

One of the particularly useful features on the CD, especially for teaching and self-testing, is the expand text button allowing graphics to be viewed first without legend and explanatory text. Another is the way graphic animations are used in the Treatment Section to demonstrate and

teach different lasering techniques. Unfortunately this only covers age-related macular degeneration and excludes the new dye-plus-laser Photodynamic therapy. The format used in this section could be even more useful if expanded to include lasering in diabetes and retinal vascular occlusion. The Electrophysiology module is particularly well presented with Dr Holder's superb high-quality traces backed by clear and concise text.

Yet a further impressive feature is the inclusion of spoken word commentary by Prof Bird, which is neither gimmicky nor repetitive of the text, but really adds value to the program and I am sure, for many, will be an evocative memory of the Moorfields Fluorescein conferences.

In summary, an essential CD for every eye department with a teaching commitment. I only hope that updates will be produced covering other aspects of retinal disease and diabetes more fully.

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