

## Preface

This book has been written mainly for retinal screeners, but should be of interest to others including optometrists, medical students, nurses, diabetologists and ophthalmologists. It describes diabetes from the perspective of the patient, acknowledging the day to day difficulties which are often unknown to those who do not themselves have diabetes. The book also covers the basic anatomy of the eye, visual function and the practicalities of screening individuals and populations. However, the most important chapters describe retinal images to allow acquisition of the vital skill of recognizing different degrees of severity of retinopathy.

Retinal screening is part of diabetes care, and retinal screeners play a vital role in the diabetes care team which delivers the service to individuals with diabetes. Although the book is intended primarily as a practical handbook, it should be useful for those preparing to take the new UK National Diploma in diabetes retinal screening.

All images were taken using Canon CR-6 cameras with either JVC or Canon D60 digital imagers. The images in this book have all been taken during routine screening in busy sessions. Experts on eyes or photographs may feel that their technical quality is not optimal. However, this is a book about practical screening in diabetes and deals with the reality of image interpretation in day to day work. It is not a textbook of ophthalmology. The level of resolution obtained is easily sufficient to detect treatable retinopathy and prevent diabetes blindness. Indeed, the major fall in rates of blindness in Newcastle upon Tyne was achieved using lower resolution Polaroid retinal photographs.

The self-assessment chapter has been organized so that you may test yourself after each chapter. The retinal images are also obtainable from the web, and the website can be used as a further self-assessment tool.

---

This book could not have been put together without the expert input of the Newcastle retinal screening team – Denise Young, Deborah Batey, Maureen Shotton, Diane Mitchie and Dianne Mitchell. I am most grateful to each of them, and this book is an attempt to clone them. Dr C.S. Arun helped to identify representative images and Dr Ayad Al-Bermani, Medical Ophthalmologist, proof read the book. Photographs were taken by Jodie Batey and line drawings were created by James Corris. My knowledge about diabetic retinopathy has been acquired by close and much appreciated collaboration over many years with Mr Kevin Stannard, Consultant Ophthalmologist.

**Roy Taylor**