

DIAGNOSIS OF DEFECTIVE COLOUR VISION

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This text provides invaluable information for practitioners involved in the examination of colour vision. The information is largely practical with sufficient theoretical background for explanation and credence. The style is fluid and the organisation is clear and logical. As a clinical reference tool, the practitioner can directly access information for patients with colour deficiencies on the occupational consequences of colour vision anomalies. These have been graded into careers requiring normal colour vision, and careers where colour deficiency is a disadvantage. The disadvantages can range from exclusion from matching tasks of small and large colour differences to exclusion from all colour recognition tasks. Problems with colour codes and driving are discussed.

Recommended colour vision tests for colour vision quality assurance assessments are outlined fully and are most useful in current industrial climates. Significant clinical decisions are required when assessing colour vision and Birch elaborates on this difficult area by dividing the approach

to colour vision between congenital and acquired defects. The monitoring of retinal disease states by colour changes is fully described in the chapter on acquired colour vision defects. Explanations are given of pathological signs. The large range of test for patients under seven years of age shows the current varieties available and how they differ.

Importantly, Birch emphasises the manipulation of raw colour vision data in order to gain accurate interpretation of test results. There is a particularly clinically useful segment - tests in current use - that describes the appropriate analyses for test of hue discrimination such as the F-M 100 Hue Test. The errors in raw scores are well described.

Exposure is also given to the reader of the range of internationally available pseudoisochromatic, matching and discrimination tests. A sample case report for colour vision reporting is an invaluable inclusion in this monograph.

A review and update on colour deficiency aetiologies precedes the tests and clinical components of this book. Some references to the very earliest theories of colour vision mechanisms provide an historical perspective on this currently useful but somewhat under utilised clinical indicator which is colour assessment. The approach by Birch to this topic is effective in delivering the topic of colour vision to both theorist and the clinician.