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Special Issue INTRAOCULAR TUMORS

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About the Cover

"Tapioca Melanoma of the Iris"

This award-winning photograph was taken by Rosario Bate, CRA, COT. The patient was referred to Seymour Brownstein, M.D. at the University of Ottawa Eye Institute for evaluation of an elevated iris lesion. The pair of images depicts a fluorescein gonio-angiogram recorded digitally, and a relief map of this image using a computer enhancement technique.

The Topcon TRC 50I camera was used in conjunction with the Topcon Imagenet System for the fluorescein gonioangiogram. A Goldmann three-mirror lens was used to view and photograph the lesion. The camera was set at the 20 degree angle with the "A" diopter setting. The diagnostic lens was placed on the eye and the optimal view obtained just before the red-free photographs and injection of the dye. Photographic sequencing was planned and preparation of materials for dye injection completed well in advance to minimize the length of time the diagnostic lens remained on the eye. At the completion of the fluorescein gonio-angiogram, a fluorescein image was enhanced using the "relief map" found in the "tool box" of the Imagenet software. Rosario Bate has used this enhancement in several disorders where elevation is involved, including tumors, and finds it helpful as a teaching modality.

The "relief map" is an enhancement tool that allows an image to appear raised or "embossed." This is accomplished by suppressing or eliminating the tonality within the image and tracing its edges in dark gray or black. The image can also be viewed in reverse, similar to that of reversed stereo images.