

# orbital septum anatomy

**orbital septum anatomy** is a crucial aspect of the human eye's structural framework, serving multiple roles in protecting and supporting the delicate tissues of the orbit. Understanding the orbital septum involves exploring its anatomy, relationships with adjacent structures, clinical significance, and variations that may arise due to pathology or surgical interventions. This article provides a comprehensive overview of orbital septum anatomy, detailing its functional importance, histological characteristics, and relevance in various medical contexts. By the end of this article, readers will have a thorough understanding of the orbital septum and its implications in both health and disease.

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## What is the Orbital Septum?

The orbital septum is a fibrous structure that acts as a partition between the contents of the orbit and the surrounding facial tissues. It forms a part of the eyelid anatomy and extends from the orbital rim to the tarsal plates of the eyelids. This structure is essential for maintaining the integrity of the orbit and preventing the spread of infections from the facial region to the orbital cavity. The orbital septum can be considered a protective barrier that separates the delicate ocular components from external trauma and infections.

## Function and Importance

The primary function of the orbital septum is to provide support and protection to the ocular structures. It helps in maintaining the position of the orbital fat and the globe within the orbit. Additionally, the septum plays a role in the drainage of tears and the regulation of intraocular pressure. By containing the orbital fat and surrounding tissues, the septum aids in the proper functioning of the eyelids, ensuring that they close effectively and protect the eye. Moreover, it acts as a limiting factor in the spread of infections, acting as a barrier to prevent the migration of pathogens from the skin or sinuses into the deeper orbital spaces.

# Anatomy of the Orbital Septum

The anatomy of the orbital septum is complex and involves various components that work together to support the eye and its surrounding structures. It is primarily composed of connective tissue, which gives it both strength and flexibility. The septum is located anteriorly in the orbit and can be divided into several key sections based on its anatomical relationships.

## Structure and Composition

The orbital septum is composed predominantly of collagen fibers, which provide tensile strength. This fibrous tissue is covered by a thin layer of epithelium on the anterior surface. The septum is continuous with the periosteum of the orbit and the tarsal plates of the eyelids, establishing a connection between the orbital cavity and eyelid structures. The thickness of the orbital septum can vary, with some regions being more robust than others, particularly around the medial and lateral canthi.

## Relations to Surrounding Structures

Understanding the relationships of the orbital septum to adjacent structures is essential for comprehending its clinical significance. The septum extends from the frontal bone at the orbital rim to the tarsus of the eyelids. It is closely associated with several key anatomical features:

- **Eyelids:** The septum forms the upper and lower eyelid's internal framework, aiding in their function and maintaining their position.
- **Orbital Fat:** The orbital fat is encapsulated by the septum, providing cushioning and support to the ocular structures.
- **Muscles:** The ocular muscles are located posterior to the septum, allowing for movement of the eye while the septum maintains a protective barrier.
- **Periorbital Tissues:** The septum separates orbital contents from the periorbital skin, preventing the direct spread of infections.

## Clinical Significance of the Orbital Septum

The clinical significance of the orbital septum is underscored by its role in various pathologies, surgical interventions, and anatomical variations. Understanding this structure can aid healthcare professionals in diagnosing and treating conditions related to the orbit and eyelids.

## Infection and Inflammation

One of the crucial roles of the orbital septum is its function as a barrier to infections. Conditions such as preseptal cellulitis occur when there is an infection in the soft tissue anterior to the orbital septum.

This can lead to swelling, redness, and pain in the eyelids without affecting the deeper orbital contents. In contrast, postseptal cellulitis involves infections that penetrate the septum, potentially leading to more severe complications, such as vision loss or orbital abscess.

## **Surgical Considerations**

Surgeons must have a thorough understanding of the orbital septum when performing procedures involving the eyelids or orbit. For instance, during blepharoplasty (eyelid surgery), careful dissection of the septum is necessary to avoid damaging the underlying structures and to ensure optimal cosmetic results. Knowledge of the septum's anatomy is also crucial during reconstructive surgeries following trauma or tumor excision in the orbital area.

## **Common Conditions Affecting the Orbital Septum**

Several conditions can affect the orbital septum, leading to various clinical manifestations. Understanding these conditions is essential for appropriate diagnosis and management.

### **Orbital Cellulitis**

Orbital cellulitis is a serious condition that occurs when infection spreads beyond the orbital septum, affecting the deeper orbital tissues. Symptoms may include fever, proptosis (protrusion of the eye), restricted eye movement, and swelling of the eyelids. This condition requires prompt medical intervention, often with intravenous antibiotics and possibly surgical drainage.

### **Hemorrhage and Trauma**

Trauma to the orbit can lead to hemorrhage within the orbital space, which may be contained by the orbital septum. Orbital hemorrhage can result in vision changes, pain, and swelling. Treatment may involve observation or surgical intervention depending on the severity of the hemorrhage.

### **Other Pathologies**

Other conditions such as benign tumors or congenital anomalies can also impact the orbital septum. For example, dermoid cysts may arise in relation to the septum, requiring surgical evaluation and management.

## **Conclusion**

The orbital septum anatomy is vital in understanding the complex interactions within the orbit and the eye. Its role in providing support, protection, and separation of tissues is essential for maintaining ocular health. Awareness of the anatomy and clinical implications of the orbital septum aids healthcare professionals in diagnosing and managing conditions that may arise in this region. As research continues to evolve, our understanding of the orbital septum will deepen, further enhancing

our capabilities in ocular medicine.

### **Q: What is the primary function of the orbital septum?**

A: The primary function of the orbital septum is to act as a protective barrier that separates the contents of the orbit from the surrounding facial tissues, thereby preventing the spread of infections and providing support to the ocular structures.

### **Q: How does the orbital septum relate to eyelid anatomy?**

A: The orbital septum is closely related to eyelid anatomy as it extends from the orbital rim to the tarsal plates, forming an internal framework that supports eyelid structures and helps maintain their position and function.

### **Q: What are the clinical implications of orbital septum infections?**

A: Infections involving the orbital septum can lead to conditions such as preseptal or postseptal cellulitis, which may require different management approaches. Preseptal cellulitis is typically less severe, while postseptal cellulitis can lead to serious complications including vision loss.

### **Q: Can trauma affect the orbital septum?**

A: Yes, trauma can lead to hemorrhage or other injuries within the orbital space, which may be contained by the orbital septum. This can result in symptoms such as pain, swelling, and vision changes, necessitating medical evaluation.

### **Q: Are there variations in the anatomy of the orbital septum?**

A: Yes, there can be anatomical variations in the thickness and attachment points of the orbital septum, which may have implications in surgical procedures and the propensity for certain conditions.

### **Q: What surgical procedures require knowledge of the orbital septum?**

A: Surgical procedures such as blepharoplasty, orbital decompression, and repair of orbital fractures require a thorough understanding of the orbital septum to avoid complications and achieve optimal outcomes.

## **Q: How does the orbital septum aid in tear drainage?**

A: The orbital septum helps maintain the proper positioning of the lacrimal structures and eyelids, which are essential for the effective drainage of tears through the puncta into the nasolacrimal system.

## **Q: What role does the orbital septum play in ocular movement?**

A: The orbital septum acts as a supportive structure, allowing the ocular muscles to function effectively while maintaining the position of the globe within the orbit, thus facilitating smooth eye movements.

## **Q: What is the relationship between the orbital septum and orbital fat?**

A: The orbital septum encapsulates the orbital fat, providing cushioning and support to the ocular structures and helping to maintain the proper anatomical position of the eye within the orbit.

## **Q: How can diseases of the orbital septum manifest clinically?**

A: Diseases affecting the orbital septum can manifest as swelling, redness, pain in the eyelids, changes in vision, or proptosis, depending on the underlying condition such as infection, trauma, or tumor presence.

## **Orbital Septum Anatomy**

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**orbital septum anatomy: Atlas of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery - E-Book** Paul Tiwana, Deepak Kademani, 2023-02-02 Enhance your surgical skills with Atlas of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, 2nd Edition! Written by respected international contributors and edited by OMS experts Paul Tiwana and Deepak Kademani, the new edition of this practical, comprehensive guide is divided into two volumes with eBook access included with the print purchase. It offers detailed, step-by-step instructions and more than 2,500 full-color illustrations that demonstrate how to plan for and perform oral and maxillofacial surgical procedures safely and efficiently. Comprehensive and expanded coverage addresses the broad scope of the specialty, ranging from the surgical anatomy of the head and neck to oral surgery, implant surgery, orthognathic and craniofacial surgery, cleft lip and palate, craniomaxillofacial trauma, head and neck oncology, reconstructive procedures, TMJ surgery, facial cosmetic surgery, obstructive sleep apnea, and more. - Comprehensive, consistent approach to OMS operative procedures offers practical guidance for the management of patients with oral and maxillofacial disorders, with each surgical procedure chapter approximately six to eight pages in length and covering the following topics: armamentarium, history of the procedure, indications for use of the procedure, limitations and contraindications, technique, alternate or modified technique, avoidance and management of intraoperative complications, and postoperative considerations. - More than 2,500 images include vibrant, modern medical illustrations and clinical photos that make up the heart of each surgical chapter and bring it to life visually. - Detailed, step-by-step approach shows how to perform OMS surgical procedures safely and efficiently. - Coverage of alternative and modified techniques addresses options beyond the standard techniques. - Expert, international contributors provide authoritative guidance on the OMS procedures they typically perform. - NEW! Two-volume extended edition is easier to navigate and includes extensive updates throughout. - NEW! More than 30 new chapters expand the coverage of implants, craniofacial surgery, and facial cosmetic surgery — plus an all-new section discusses obstructive sleep apnea (OSA). - NEW! An eBook version included only with print purchase allows you to access all the text, figures, and references, with the ability to search, customize your content, make notes and highlights, and have content read aloud.

**orbital septum anatomy: Diseases and Disorders of the Orbit and Ocular Adnexa E-Book** Aaron Fay, Peter J Dolman, 2016-11-04 Drawing from the knowledge and expertise of more than 70 contributing international experts, Diseases and Disorders of the Orbit and Ocular Adnexa thoroughly covers the state of the art in orbital and periocular disease from the perspective of a variety of specialties. Clearly written and profusely illustrated, it covers the clinical presentation, pathophysiology, natural history, and management alternatives of disease processes affecting the orbit, eyelids, lacrimal system, and upper face. With a singular focus on the diagnosis and management of orbital and ocular adnexal disease, this authoritative text gives you the information you need to excel both in practice and on exams in the specialty of ophthalmic plastic and reconstructive surgery. - Offers an in-depth and thorough approach to the pathophysiology of oculoplastics and orbital disease, incorporating the perspectives of numerous specialties – all in one convenient volume. - Uses an easy-to-follow, templated format throughout so you can find what you need quickly. - Covers new information not included in other texts, such as antibody testing in dysthyroid conditions and a rapidly emerging array of targeted immunosuppressive medications for the treatment of inflammatory orbital disease. - Includes hot topics such as the classification and management of orbital inflammatory disease; vascular neoplasms and malformations; periocular dermatology; burn management; facial paralytic disease; and the pathogenesis, evaluation and management of lymphoproliferative disease. - Features more than 1,200 high-quality clinical, imaging, and histological illustrations that provide clear visual examples of orbital disease. - Written by an international team of experts from five continents (across multiple specialties including ophthalmology, dermatology, burn management, plastic surgery, otolaryngology, endocrinology, and pathology) led by Dr. Aaron Fay and Dr. Peter J. Dolman.

**orbital septum anatomy: Eyelid and Periorbital Surgery, Second Edition** Mark A. Codner, MD, Clinton D. McCord, Jr., MD, 2016-06-22 Eyelid & Periorbital Surgery offers expansive coverage

of aesthetic and reconstructive procedures in oculoplastic surgery. Oculoplastic and plastic surgeons combine their talents in this unique two-volume clinical resource that features comprehensive guidance for solving both common and rare eyelid and periorbital problems. With more than 2,900 photos and color illustrations, this edition has 26 rewritten first edition chapters and expands on an additional 13 new chapters, including topics ranging from nonsurgical periorbital rejuvenation to male blepharoplasty. Best of all, there are more than 30 new surgical videos demonstrating the latest surgical techniques. Also included is a complimentary eBook. Divided into 5 sections, the book begins by covering the fundamentals including periorbital and eyelid anatomy, eyelid function, innervation, biomechanics, and tissue grafts. The following section discusses aesthetic surgery including procedures such as brow lift, upper and lower blepharoplasty, midface lift, treatment of malar bags and festoons, lateral canthal dysfunction, and management of chemosis. A new section has been added on aesthetic nonsurgical state-of-the-art periorbital treatments with an update on injectable fillers, botulinum toxin injections, and fat grafting. The reconstructive surgery section covers ptosis surgery, upper and lower eyelid reconstruction, entropion and ectropion reconstruction, surgery for facial paralysis, malignant eyelid tumors, Graves' disease, and the treatment of pediatric patients. The new final section covers orbital and lacrimal surgery including blowout fracture of the orbital floor, neuroophthalmologic injuries, evisceration and enucleation, late repair of orbital fractures, and management of the lacrimal system. Step-by-step descriptions and detailed videos provide a wide variety of tips, clinical pearls, and personal insights from the authors making this an invaluable resource for surgeons interested in the topic.

**orbital septum anatomy: *Ophthalmology*** Myron Yanoff, MD, Jay S. Duker, MD, 2013-12-16  
2014 BMA Medical Book Awards Highly Commended in Surgical specialties category! Get the quick answers you need on every aspect of clinical ophthalmology and apply them in your day-to-day practice. The latest edition of *Ophthalmology* by Drs. Yanoff and Duker presents practical, expert, concise guidance on nearly every ophthalmic condition and procedure, equipping you to efficiently overcome whatever clinical challenges you may face. In summary, the role of clinical electrophysiology of vision in clinical practice is better documented in Yanoff and Duker's *Ophthalmology*, 4th Edition than in the introductory textbooks of earlier generations. Reviewed by: S. E. Brodie, Department of Ophthalmology, Icahn School of Medicine, July 2014 Focus on the clinically actionable information you need thanks to a more streamlined format. Make optimal use of the newest drug therapies, including Anti-VEGF treatment for wet ARMD and bevacizumab treatment for complications of diabetes. Get authoritative guidance on the newest treatment options for cornea disorders, including evolving ocular surface reconstruction techniques and new cornea procedures such as DSEK. Take it with you anywhere. Access the full text, video clips, and more online at Expert Consult. Apply the latest advances in the diagnosis and treatment of ocular disease, including new drug therapies for retinal disorders; today's expanded uses of optical coherence tomography (OCT) and high-resolution imaging modalities; new corneal, cataract and refractive surgical approaches; and new developments in molecular biology and genetics, ocular surface disease, glaucoma testing, neuro-ophthalmology, uveitis, ocular tumors, and much more. Visualize how to proceed by viewing more than 2200 illustrations (1,900 in full color) depicting the complete range of clinical disorders, imaging methods, and surgical techniques. Hone and expand your surgical skills by watching 40 brand-new videos demonstrating key techniques in cornea, cataract, refractive, retina and glaucoma surgery. Spend less time searching thanks to a user-friendly visual format designed for quick, easy-in easy-out reference and an instant understanding on any topic.

**orbital septum anatomy: *Oculoplastic Surgery*** William Pai-Dei Chen, 2011-01-01 Drawing on the expertise of a multidisciplinary team of experts, this unique text systematically covers the three major branches of oculoplastic surgery—general, aesthetic, and orbital diseases—in a concise format that focuses on only the most relevant, must-know information. Packed with hundreds of full-color illustrations, *Oculoplastic Surgery: The Essentials* provides readers with easily accessible descriptions of key techniques and procedures. Features 764 original, high-quality illustrations, including many in full color Numerous pearls and practical clinical decision trees appear throughout

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**orbital septum anatomy: *Ophthalmology E-Book*** Myron Yanoff, Jay S. Duker, 2013-11-06 Get the quick answers you need on every aspect of clinical ophthalmology and apply them in your day-to-day practice. The latest edition of *Ophthalmology* by Drs. Yanoff and Duker presents practical, expert, concise guidance on nearly every ophthalmic condition and procedure, equipping you to efficiently overcome whatever clinical challenges you may face. Consult this title on your favorite e-reader, conduct rapid searches, and adjust font sizes for optimal readability. Compatible with Kindle®, nook®, and other popular devices. Focus on the clinically actionable information you need thanks to a more streamlined format. Make optimal use of the newest drug therapies, including Anti-VEGF treatment for wet ARMD and bevacizumab treatment for complications of diabetes. Get authoritative guidance on the newest treatment options for cornea disorders, including evolving ocular surface reconstruction techniques and new cornea procedures such as DSEK. Take it with you anywhere. Access the full text, video clips, and more online at Expert Consult. Apply the latest advances in the diagnosis and treatment of ocular disease, including new drug therapies for retinal disorders; today's expanded uses of optical coherence tomography (OCT) and high-resolution imaging modalities; new corneal, cataract and refractive surgical approaches; and new developments in molecular biology and genetics, ocular surface disease, glaucoma testing, neuro-ophthalmology, uveitis, ocular tumors, and much more. Visualize how to proceed by viewing more than 2200 illustrations (1,900 in full color) depicting the complete range of clinical disorders, imaging methods, and surgical techniques. Hone and expand your surgical skills by watching 40 brand-new videos demonstrating key techniques in cornea, cataract, refractive, retina and glaucoma surgery. Spend less time searching thanks to a user-friendly visual format designed for quick, easy-in easy-out reference and an instant understanding on any topic.

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**orbital septum anatomy: Ophthalmology Board and FRCS Part 2 Exams** Saif Aldeen Alryalat, 2025-03-13 The book provides the ophthalmology knowledge necessary for students and residents aiming to pass critical clinical exams such as the FRCOphth Part 2, FRCS Part 2, and the American Board of Ophthalmology clinical exam. Additionally, it covers national clinical board exam, owing to inclusion of various sources of clinical question banks. It fills a crucial gap by offering insights that go beyond classical textbooks to address what these exams specifically test. The book is drafted from updated literature and over 10,000 existing ophthalmology questions curated by leading professionals in the field. The chapters delve into essential topics like diagnostic methods, treatment strategies, and recent advancements in ophthalmology. With comparative tables and concise summaries, this book ensures focus on the highest yield information. The chapters are organized to highlight commonly overlooked frequently tested topics. The book provides a clear path through complex subject matter by incorporating recent literature and resolving longstanding controversies. The book targets ophthalmology residents, students, and fellows preparing for exams, practicing ophthalmologists will also benefit from up-to-date information and summarized evidence on nearly all ophthalmology topics. This book is an invaluable tool for anyone within the field seeking to enhance their knowledge base with insights from experts supported by recent research.

**orbital septum anatomy: Midface Surgery** Cláudio Cardoso de Castro, Kristin A. Boehm, 2009-01-01 This volume in the Techniques in Aesthetic Plastic Surgery Series gives you the very latest on the hottest areas in midface surgery. Generously illustrated with many color operative photographs, line drawings and cases, the book focuses on the newest techniques and how to use them to get the best possible results. Positioning, marking, alternative options, surgical pitfalls and expert tips, tricks, and comments are presented in clear, clinical terms. Each portable volume is augmented with a fully searchable DVD containing video clips of key procedures, performed by experts as well as operative tricks and hints. Contains detailed full-color illustrations for clear visual guidance to each operative step. Includes a DVD with video clips of key procedures performed by an expert so you can see them performed in real time. Discusses common pitfalls to help you improve the quality of your technique. Features experts' tricks of the trade so you can learn the best approach to getting the optimal results. Provides international authorship for true breadth and depth of knowledge. Uses a consistent format, style, and approach throughout to make finding information easier. Covers superperiosteal procedures, surgery in ethnic minorities and men, and the ancillary procedures that can be combined with a midface lift.

**orbital septum anatomy: Handbook of Otolaryngology - Ebook** David Goldenberg, Bradley J. Goldstein, 2025-04-04 Covering the full spectrum of otolaryngology-head and neck surgery and facial plastic surgery, Handbook of Otolaryngology: Head and Neck Surgery, Third Edition, is packed with must-know information while remaining conveniently portable. A reader-friendly organization and superb indexing make this acclaimed, award-winning handbook easy to use for daily quick reference. It's an essential companion for residents, fellows, and clinicians in otolaryngology, and for all physicians and allied professionals in other disciplines who can use rapid and reliable guidance on ENT medicine and surgery. - Provides indispensable, detailed guidance on the full continuum of patient care—from pediatric to geriatric. - Covers new technologies and drugs, new treatment methods, new evidence-based guidelines, with discussions of timely topics such as otolaryngological manifestations of COVID-19, remote access thyroid surgery, and radiofrequency ablation of benign thyroid nodules. - Contains concise, easy-to-digest sections on Otology, Rhinology, Laryngology and the Upper Aerodigestive Tract, Head and Neck Surgery (including oncology),

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**orbital septum anatomy: Inderbir Singh's Textbook of Anatomy** V Subhadra Devi, 2019-06-29

**orbital septum anatomy: Manual of Oculoplastic Surgery** Mark R. Levine, Richard C. Allen, 2018-06-26 For the last two decades, this best-selling, step-by-step guide to oculoplastic surgery has been highly respected and widely used by ophthalmologists, oculofacial plastic fellows, residents, ENT-facial plastic surgeons, and general plastic surgeons. The revised and updated fifth edition of Manual of Oculoplastic Surgery is designed to guide the physician in exploring and completing a variety of ocular plastic procedures in a comprehensive and logical step-by-step sequence. It features new authors. Sections include: Trauma, Lacrimal Surgery, Cosmetic, Congenital Ptosis, Acquired Ptosis, Eyelid Malposition, Facial Nerve Dysfunction, Eyelid Flaps, Orbital Surgery, and Therapeutic Considerations. Each procedure in this must-have resource includes a review of the surgical anatomy, step-by-step instructions, plus the book is complete with more than one hundred color illustrations and dozens of surgical videos for further education.

**orbital septum anatomy: Brow and Upper Eyelid Surgery: Multispecialty Approach** Guy G Massry, Babak Azizzadeh, 2012-10-28 Traditionally, professional medical and surgical society meetings, journals, and texts are single-specialty driven to accommodate specific specialists with information most important to them. A consequence of this structure is that it can create an unintentional and artificial barrier to sharing knowledge that can benefit patient outcomes. Cosmetic and reconstructive surgeons, more than ever, are seeking to know what other specialists are doing. This publication, the first of a series, focuses on the brow and upper eyelid rejuvenation and

presents varied and complementary techniques from the core specialties of Plastic surgery, Oculoplastic surgery, Facial plastic surgery, and Dermatology to address all aspects of rejuvenation procedures of the upper face. Surgical and non-invasive techniques are presented concisely, focusing on time-tested as well as novel procedures. The most talented and accomplished subspecialists in their respective fields provide insights into such topics as Preoperative Evaluation for the Upper Eyelid and Brow; Aesthetic Enhancements in Upper Blepharoplasty; Asian Upper Lid Blepharoplasty; Prevention and Intraoperative Management of Blepharoplasty Complications; Ptosis Repair in Aesthetic Blepharoplasty; Adjunctive Fat Grafting of the Brow/Upper Lid; The Open Brow Lift; Adjunctive Skin Care of the Brow and Upper Lid; among many others. Specific techniques, Patient perspective and goals, and clear anatomic descriptions are presented with each procedure, with several offering technique videos. Guest editors Babak Azizzadeh and Guy Massry strongly believe that, with more and varied practitioners with different training taking on cosmetic and reconstructive surgeries or procedures, transparency of information is essential in order to expose the best information to all practitioners of this art and science.

**orbital septum anatomy: Oculofacial, Orbital, and Lacrimal Surgery** Adam J. Cohen, Cat Nguyen Burkat, 2019-08-30 This comprehensive text covers both core and advanced principles within oculofacial, orbital, and lacrimal surgery with extensive detail not found in any other current book on the subject. Richly illustrated with hundreds of images, Oculofacial, Orbital, and Lacrimal Surgery: A Compendium is written and edited by international leaders in fields spanning ophthalmology, otolaryngology, oral and maxillofacial surgery, and plastic surgery. Covering topics such as embryology, anatomy, and physiology of the lacrimal system, imaging for orbital diseases and thyroid-related ophthalmology, and flap geometry and planning, this book is an excellent resource for those in training, as well as seasoned clinicians looking to stay current. This book is divided into five sections: Eyelid, Oculofacial, Lacrimal, Orbit, and Socket, with each section containing detailed chapters addressing evaluation, imaging, and various surgical approaches and management. Designed to not only provide an anatomical and surgical guide for all three types of surgeries, but to help physicians avoid mistakes and correct complications of patients referred to them, Oculofacial, Orbital, and Lacrimal Surgery: A Compendium is the definitive, authoritative reference on this complex field.

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