Review of: Dental Radiography: Principles and Techniques

Jacqueline Brian, LDH, MSEd

Reviewed by Jacqueline Brian, LDH, MSEd, professor, Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dental Radiography: Principles and Techniques

Third Edition

Haring JI and Howerton LJ

W. B. Saunders Company, 2006

St. Louis, Missouri

544 pages; illustrated; indexed; softcover

ISBN: 0-72161-575-9

$59.95

The third edition of Dental Radiology: Principles and Techniques has quickly become the premier resource for comprehensive-yet clear and concise-fundamental concepts of dental radiology. The authors have wrapped these positive learning features into short chapters to facilitate student learning and ease in understanding.

The text is divided into 6 parts: Radiation; Equipment, Film and Processing; Dental Radiographer; Technique; Normal Anatomy and Film Mounting; and Radiographic Interpretation.

Radiology concepts are difficult to master, so the step-by-step procedures for proper techniques, which include rationales and charting notes, allow students to easily gain a solid understanding of these procedures. Other learning-friendly features are the quiz questions for each chapter and example boxes.
In addition, 750 strategically placed, detailed illustrations are combined with a clear writing style to explain concepts in a simple, student-friendly way. These tools are essential for the comprehension of critical material.

The authors also recognized the need for students to play an active role in their own learning, and thus have expertly expanded beyond the basic teaching medium. They’ve included a companion, interactive CD-ROM, a new Web site, which includes a 110-question self-study exam, as well as a series of patient case studies that are in the same format as the National Board Dental Hygiene Exam. Animations also help the students visualize and learn key concepts and theories that are so difficult to comprehend.

All these learning tools are important to link the essential information to the application for development of self-directed student learning. In updating this new text, the authors have included the latest advances in radiography, including additional chapters on Descriptive Terminology and Interpretation of Restorations and Dental Materials. This additional material will better prepare students for future National Board Dental Hygiene Exams.

Extending beyond student needs, the authors have provided instructors with a new, online resource manual that will save class preparation time. This will be a valuable course management tool for instructors who may be unfamiliar with this subject material.

As leaders in their field, the authors have provided an impressive resource for dental hygiene and dental assisting students. Classroom instructors will want to include this text as required reading.
Review of: Practical Oral Medicine

Ruth Fearing Tornwall, RDH, MS

Reviewed by Ruth Fearing Tornwall, RDH, MS, Instructor IV at Lamar Institute of Technology in Beaumont, Texas.

Practical Oral Medicine
First Edition
Macleod I and Crighton A
Quintessence Publishing Co., Ltd., 2006
London, England
164 pages, color illustrations, indexed, hardcover
ISBN: 1850970653
$54.00

Practical Oral Medicine is a new book in the Quintessentials for the General Dental Practice series from Quintessence. This book, like others in this series, is concise, easy-to-absorb, and up-to-date with color illustrations. The book is meant to be an easy to understand chairside reference text, providing oral medicine information and advice. The level of writing is appropriate for dental health professionals.

The book includes 11 chapters, with the first being an introductory chapter and the last covering therapies in oral medicine. Each chapter includes an aim, outcome, introduction to the area, the lesion or condition being discussed, diagnosis, management or treatment, a conclusion or summary, and references for further reading.
The introductory chapter describes in detail the procedure for an oral medicine consultation. The authors stress the fact that this meeting sets the tone for all remaining visits. The consultation includes the greeting, the purpose of the appointment, the information gathering format, a review and discussion of the key points of the examination, the conclusion of the findings, and the discussion of any future appointments, if necessary. At the end of this meeting, both the patient and the practitioner should have a clear understanding of their future care plan.

Chapter 2 reviews immunological problems, including the oral effects of allergy along with the oral mucosal effects of immunological reactions to the oral mucosa. Chapter 3 examines the various oral and perioral lumps and swellings, their diagnosis, and management. The authors conclude that these lesions are a common finding with most being benign. Clinically though, many of these lesions are similar and need to be differentiated histologically. The authors state there are some instances when a lesion would warrant further investigation.

Chapter 4 looks at common oral mucosal and facial infections. The authors break down the infections into categories of bacterial, viral, and fungal lesions. The main principle in treating these lesions is to identify the active organism and determine its sensitivity to antimicrobial therapy. Chapter 5 covers white patches, dividing them into 2 groups, those that can rub off and those that cannot. Chapter 6 describes the diagnosis and management of oral cancer and premalignant lesions; risk factors and possible risk factors are identified in the chapter. The authors suggest dental health professionals should be able to council patients about risk factors, as surviving oral cancer depends on its early detection.

Chapter 7 describes various disorders that can result in pigmentation of the oral mucosa. Chapter 8 examines various disorders that can affect the salivary glands and salivation. The chapter is divided into 3 categories: salivary flow disturbance, salivary gland infections, and salivary gland swellings. Most problems are a relatively common occurrence but all complaints warrant investigation. Chapter 9 covers facial pain. The chapter seeks to make the clinical pattern of different pain problems more familiar. The authors emphasize the importance of taking a careful history and highlight using quality of life as a measure of success. Chapter 10 reviews the common neurological problems that may occur in the head, neck, and mouth. Chapter 11 describes the range and value of the various complementary therapies that may be used in oral medicine. They conclude that the evidence base for many therapies is lacking and further research is needed in these areas.

The book contains an index as well as 2 appendices. The index includes most of the major headings and many terms used within the chapters. Appendix A reviews the features of 6 common oral medicine conditions and their protocols that should be used in conjunction with the general history and examination guidelines as suggested in Chapter 1. Each protocol concentrates on the more detailed history or examination that is needed when considering each diagnosis. These conditions include lichen planus, recurrent oral ulcerations, white patches, sore lips-chelitis and angular stomatitis-oral dysaesthesia, and temporomandibular disorders. Appendix B lists topical and systemic steroid treatment protocols.

Overall the book succeeds in its goal to provide the reader with a succinct easy-to-use text on oral medicine. One area that could have been improved upon is the number of photos in the book to illustrate the lesion under discussion; but, the photos that are there are of high quality. This is a book that could easily fit into one's oral health library.
Review of: Pocket Atlas of Oral Diseases

Margaret Six, RDH, MSDH

Reviewed by Margaret Six, RDH, MSDH, associate professor at West Liberty State College, West Liberty, West Virginia.

Pocket Atlas of Oral Diseases

2nd Pocket Edition

Laskaris G, MD, DDS, PhD

Thieme Medical Publishers, 2006

New York, New York

384 pages, softcover, indexed, illustrated

ISBN: 1588902498

$39.95

Pocket Atlas of Oral Diseases is an excellent reference text for the dental professional. The second pocket edition, written by George Laskaris, MD, DDS, PhD, consists of 370 pages filled with 350 color photographs, with associated literature to describe conditions and diseases found in the oral cavity. Laskaris offers a comprehensive overview of local and systemic oral disease in a pocket-size book. The small size lends itself to easy storage in a lab coat pocket or the smallest space in a busy dental operatory for quick review.
The contents of the text are well organized into 12 chapters. Three chapters are devoted to lesions categorized by the colors white, red, brown, and black, which assist the reader in quickly locating a photograph with associated facts particular to the lesion. Additional chapters include the categories of ulcerative, vesiculobullous, papillary, and lip lesions. The remaining chapters include soft tissue tumors and cysts, bone and neck swellings, and gingival enlargement.

Within each chapter, the definition, etiology, clinical features, laboratory test, differential diagnosis, and treatment guidelines for each oral disease or condition is described. These facts assist the reader in simple identification, yet provide adequate detail to assist the doctor in the diagnosis and treatment considerations specific to the lesion or condition.

In the educational setting, *Pocket Atlas of Oral Diseases* will provide the dental hygienist and/or dental hygiene student preparing for board examinations a reference text for the review of oral diseases and conditions. The color pictures are of excellent quality and particularly helpful.


Any dental health professional will appreciate *Pocket Atlas of Oral Diseases*. The convenience of having a reference that contains conditions ranging from very common to the most obscure and rare provides a valuable resource for students, educators, and clinicians.
I liked this book from the beginning. Its diminutive size and multicolored, cartooned cover immediately drew me in. Once there, I was not disappointed. What followed was articulate text that didn't set out to "dictate rigid treatment" plans, but rather to generate an understanding of the "basic principles behind good decision-making." In her forward, Nancy Wilson, the editor-in-chief, reminds us that "good treatment planning for the developing dentition gives the child patient life-long benefits." Authors Rodd and Wray provide a framework for realizing these benefits that is "realistic, personalized, holistic, flexible, progressive and forward thinking," with goals that benefit not just the patient, but also the family and the practitioner.

Rodd and Wray divide the book into 6 sections that include the following
Each chapter begins with clearly stated aims and objectives and culminates with a list of recommended readings. The text is comprehensive and provides articulate dialogue about common questions and scenarios. Chapter 1, for example, asks the age old question about whether or not parents should accompany the child in the room for treatment. Rodd and Wray don't subscribe to any fixed dogma, but rather provide the reader with information regarding age-appropriate separation anxiety and about individual behavioral development that can effect the decision regarding parent accompaniment. In addition, they identify the parent's role in the process and provide a table that lists the pros and cons of parental accompaniment.

In another example, Chapter 3 is devoted to their belief that every child should have a "personalized preventive program that reflects their individual social, medical, and dental needs." The authors provide a table that outlines patient social, medical, and dental variables that may influence a preventive strategy. They also provide a dietary advice table as well as a list of dietary advice do's and don'ts.

Chapter text is expanded by the use of numerous illustrations, highlighted "tip" boxes, and tables. In addition to the aforementioned tables, the following tables, among others, provide valuable information in a way that can be easily accessed and recalled:

1. Implications Of Some Common Clinical Findings
2. A Guide To The Appropriate Use Of Radiographs In Children
3. Caries Risk Assessment Factors
4. Treatment Plans Based On Caries Risk
5. An Outline Of Possible Problems To Watch Out For In The Primary, Early And Late Mixed Dentition
6. Eruption Tables For Primary And Permanent Teeth
7. Guidelines On When To Balance And When To Compensate First Permanent
8. Molar Extractions In The Mixed Dentition
9. Management Of Gingival And Periodontal Conditions In Children
10. Recommended Fluoride Supplement Dosages
11. Dos And Don'ts Of Fluoride Supplement Prescription
12. Working Examples Of Individualized Preventive Programs
13. Tips For Giving A Successful Local Anesthetic To Children
14. Decision-making For Material Selection For Primary Tooth Restoration
15. Common Pulpal Therapies For Primary Molars
16. Bleaching Or Tooth-Whitening For Children
17. Special Restorative Challenges For Children
18. Common Oralfacial Infections In Children
19. Key Points For Dental Trauma Management
Review of: Communicating in Dental Practice: Stress-Free Dentistry and Improved Patient Care

Mary Danusis Cooper, RDH, MSEd

Reviewed by Mary Danusis Cooper, RDH, MSEd, professor in the dental hygiene program at Indiana University-Purdue University, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Communicating in Dental Practice: Stress-Free Dentistry and Improved Patient Care
Freeman Ruth and Humphries GM
Quintessence Publishing Co.
Chicago, Illinois, 2006
116 pages 24 illustrations, indexed, hardcover
$54.00

One of the major obstacles in dentistry is communicating effectively with patients. Many patients seen in the dental office are anxious; some can be difficult, while others may be dissatisfied. This book focuses on the many challenges faced when communicating with dental patients and how those challenges can be overcome. Principles and actions are introduced to enhance communication between the patient and staff member that will, in turn, help with difficulties encountered in the dental setting.
The text has 9 chapters written in an easy-to-read format. At the end of each chapter is a list of additional readings offered to the reader. Chapter 1, the introduction, addresses interaction problems that may be evident between staff and patients. These include difficult and demanding patients, the management of pain, dentally anxious patients, and how to encourage patients to adhere to oral health recommendations made by the dental staff.

Chapter 2 addresses basic communication skills. There are 6 key elements to communication. They include understanding nonverbal communication, listening, engaging others to talk, acknowledging other's feelings, asking questions and obtaining feedback, and giving feedback. Questions used to obtain more information about a patient’s needs include open-ended and close-ended questions.

In chapter 3, advanced communication skills are noted. How does one gain consent or break bad news to a patient? How do staff members handle complaints? An interesting fact noted in the book is that 90% of litigation in the health service is attributed to poor communication skills. This proves how essential it is to practice good communication skills.

Chapter 4 focuses on communicating with certain groups of patients such as the older population, those with learning disabilities and mental illness, ethnic minorities, as well as the homeless.

Chapter 5 addresses ways to deal with the anxious and/or demanding patient. As stated in the text, "dental anxiety is the most important psychological factor dental staff will meet in practice." All dental staff members have dealt with the anxious patient and know the importance in working with this patient in order to make the appointment as pleasant as possible—both for the practitioner and patient. Techniques recommended to reduce anxiety include tell-show-do, hypnosis, biofeedback, and relaxation.

In chapter 6, "Understanding and Finding Solutions: The 'Difficult' and Dissatisfied Patient," the emphasis is placed on managing patients with difficulties that are not necessarily dental in origin. Recommendations are given on how to manage these patients once the source of their difficulties is defined. Patients can easily displace other problems, such as a recent divorce, into the dental setting.

Chapter 7 deals with preventive health principles. Strategies are addressed for all areas of prevention-primary, secondary, and tertiary. In addition, several models that have influenced oral health education are presented.

Chapter 8 deals with integrating oral health education into the dental care of the patient. This area should be most comfortable to the dental staff since it encompasses oral hygiene care—an area essential for preventive results. In particular, the areas on fluoride, dietary and plaque control, erosion, advice for denture wearers, and oral cancer offer an excellent review for all staff members. Lastly, chapter 9 emphasizes the importance of improving patient care through excellent communication skills.

This text provides an excellent tool for every dental office. I have already recommended this book to several dentists. Upon an initial hire of an employee, I believe this book should be a mandatory read. As a dental hygiene educator, I feel this book should be implemented into the curriculum. All students, dentists, and dental personnel would benefit from the material presented in the text. Communication is essential in reducing stress and complaints from patients and, in turn, will improve the overall clinical outcomes.