

Book Reviews

Minimally Invasive Treatment, Arrest, and Control of Periodontal Diseases

By: Per Axelsson, DDS, Odont Dr
Quintessence Pub Co, 2009
312 pages, hard cover
ISBN: 978-0867153651
Cost: \$148

Review by: Tabitha Tavoc, RDH, PhD

Minimally Invasive Treatment, Arrest, and Control of Periodontal Diseases is the fifth volume of Dr. Axelsson's 6 volume series on preventive dentistry. This five-chapter, 278 page textbook is written with an European/Scandinavian point of view. It discusses minimally invasive scaling, root planing and debridement, initial intensive therapy for healing of infectious inflamed periodontal tissues, supplemental therapy for healing of infectious inflamed periodontal tissues, repair and regeneration of lost periodontal tissues and needs-related periodontal preventive and maintenance care. The book details periodontal techniques that may not be found in a typical dental hygiene periodontal textbook. For example, the author devotes 20 pages to the treatment of furcation-involved teeth in addition to a section on periodontal surgery for accessibility and reduction of deep residual pocket.

Axelsson's easy-to-read textbook includes an abundance of clinical photographs (in color), radiographs, figures and tables. The images are of excellent quality and very useful in enhancing the reader's understanding of the book's content. Furthermore, the textbook offers over 20 short periodontal cases, including case scenario, treatment provided, outcomes, clinical photographs and radiographs. Both educators and practitioners would appreciate the evidence-based recommendations on minimally invasive scaling, root planing and debridement methods outlined in chapter 1. Additionally, the end-of-chapter list of advantages and disadvantages related to various types of instruments or systems used for the removal of calculus and plaque could be a useful quick-reference for those interested in purchasing new instruments or equipment.

Dental hygienists employed in a periodontal private practice will find chapters 3 and 4 very practi-

cal. Difficult periodontal concepts are clearly explained. Chapter 3 discusses supplemental therapy for healing of infectious inflamed periodontal tissues. The use, modes of action, application and effects of various local and systemic antibiotics are carefully explained. Microbial species associated with various forms of periodontitis are also outlined, and the author makes evidence-based recommendations for systemic antibiotic therapy for diagnoses based on either microbial testing or clinical assessments. Chapter 4 is updated and covers the assessment of periodontal repair and regeneration, wound healing related to repair and regeneration, in addition to methods and materials for repair and regeneration of lost periodontal tissues. For example, various bone replacement grafts are discussed in addition to the classical guided tissue regeneration technique. More recent and contemporary regenerative approaches are also discussed.

Given the quality of the textbook, as mentioned above, volume 5 of Axelsson's series as a reference for senior dental hygiene students, dental students, dental hygienists working in a periodontal practice and both dental and dental hygiene educators.

Ethics and Law in Dental Hygiene, 2nd Edition

By: Phyllis L. Beemsterboer, RDH, MS, EdD
Saunders Elsevier, 2010
St Louis, Missouri
254 pages, soft cover
ISBN 978-1-4160-6235-6
Cost: \$44.95

Review by: Zina F. Johnston, DDS; Christian W. Johnston, JD

In the second edition of Ethics and Law in Dental Hygiene, dental hygienist and academician Phyllis L. Beemsterboer, RDH, EdD, along with other well-qualified contributors, offers a comprehensive guide to the relatively modern field of dental hygiene ethics and law. Throughout the book, Beemsterboer and her team of dental hygienists, educators, dentists, physicians and attorneys from throughout the United States delicately balance covering the chosen topics with an appropriate breadth while offering practical guidelines and advice for the dental hy-

giene professional. *Ethics and Law in Dental Hygiene* is a volume well suited for use in the classroom as well as the dental hygienist's practice.

The book is structured as a textbook, complete with easy to understand diagrams, chapter summaries and references at the end of each chapter. Nevertheless, the discussion of the selected topics is succinct enough to allow the reader to quickly grasp the relevant issues.

The first section of the book is devoted to ethics in the dental hygiene profession. The chapter titles themselves offer a decent synopsis of the covered topics: *Ethics and Professionalism, Ethical Theory and Philosophy, Ethical Principles and Values, Social Responsibility and Justice, Codes of Ethics and Ethical Decision Making in Dental Hygiene and Dentistry*. The chapter on decision-making effectively applies the principles presented in the preceding chapters. Specifically, Beemsterboer presents a 6 step model for decision-making, noting that "[the process of decision making is dynamic, evolving as additional information comes into play." This decision-making model is illustrated by a circular diagram, and includes identifying the ethical problem, collecting information, stating the options, applying ethical principles to the options, making the decision and implementing the decision.

Although it is unfortunate that the dental hygiene professional must be concerned with numerous legal issues, the prudent hygienist is well-informed regarding these legal issues. To this end, the second section of the book offers an excellent overview of the sundry legal issues facing dental hygienists. In particular, the chapters in this section address *Society and the Dental Practice Act, Dental Hygienist – Patient Relationship, Dental Hygienist – Dentist–Employer Relationship and Risk Management*. Certainly, it is beyond the scope of this book to outline all the laws regulating the practice of dental hygiene in every jurisdiction, but the book manages a decent overview and offers sound advice: "The professional obligation of dental hygienists is to be intimately familiar with the laws and regulations of the state where they practice." Everyday legal issues and conflicts that hygienists may face are appropriately covered in the chapters on dental hygienists' relationships with patients and employers, including a concise overview of various laws affecting the treatment of a patient as well as laws prohibiting discrimination in the workplace. Additionally, the chapter on risk management provides an adequate, albeit

non-comprehensive, overview of risk management principles pertaining to dental hygiene practice. The succinct discussion of documentation in the dental record contained on pages 157 through 160 ought to be mandatory reading for all dental hygiene and dental students and provides astute advice as to what dental professionals can proactively do to manage their own risks and decrease their professional liability exposure.

The final and perhaps most useful section of the book is, for the most part, new to the second edition and is entitled "Simulations and Applications." This section primarily consists of "Case Studies, Testlets and Activities." The 25 case studies in particular provide the dental hygiene student with real-world examples of ethical and legal dilemmas that may be faced in practice. Discussing these scenarios in a hypothetical context and safe classroom environment will certainly better prepare students to face such challenges on their own. Further, the 4 "testlets" and 20 activities provide additional hands-on opportunities for the dental hygiene student to develop problem-solving skills. Finally, the included appendix (codes of ethics), bibliography and selected readings list, glossary and comprehensive index at the conclusion of this section take a useful book and make it readily usable as well.

The additions to the second edition of this treatise are both timely and valuable because of their practicality. Specifically, the chapter on "Social Responsibility and Justice," which addresses access to health care, is new to the second edition. The second edition is a complete revision and the chapters have been updated, including a decent discussion of HIPAA. Also, the revised codes of ethics are fully set forth in the appendix.

As is the case with almost any textbook, *Ethics and Law in Dental Hygiene* may be criticized for its brevity and lack of exhaustive coverage of each of the chosen topics. Still, the converse of this criticism is what gives the book its value. Beemsterboer and her collaborators manage to cover their chosen topics with enough detail to be informative and educational without becoming cumbersome in the delivery of confusing minutiae.

In *Ethics and Law in Dental Hygiene*, Beemsterboer has produced both a solid textbook and a valuable and practical resource that will be welcomed in the dental practice as well as the academic library or dental hygiene classroom.