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Patient Assessment Tutorials: A Step-by-Step Guide for the Dental Hygienist

Nield-Gehrig JS, RDH, MA

Lippincott Williams & Wilkins

Philadelphia, Pa, 2006

571 pages, illustrated, indexed, softcover


$55.95


The text is divided into 3 parts containing a total of 14 modules. Part I focuses on communication techniques and Part II on assessment skills. Part III contains 6 comprehensive patient cases for practice. The User’s Guide takes time to point out the many unique features available to the reader in this user-friendly text. A glossary is provided at the end of the text.
There may be an inclination to skip the communication techniques presented in Part I but it reinforces the concept that dental hygiene procedures are rendered with a special level of care. Dental hygienists practice patient-centered, empathetic communication, and in doing so, create a trusting relationship.

The modules contain several beneficial features. Each module begins with an overview and skill goals to set the stage for learning and teaching. Ready References are designed to be removed from the text and laminated/page protected for chairside use. These References support module content with module references, internet sources, drug references, diagnostic test result ranges, descriptor worksheets, eruption and occlusion charts, self-evaluation worksheets, and other helpful information as well as suggestions for additional reading. A feature entitled 'The Human Element' uses observations from patients, reflections from students, and comments from experienced clinicians to reinforce the positive impact of caregiving. In an effort to increase cultural competence, English to Spanish Phrase Lists are provided. The Quick Questions allow the learner to quickly review the content of the module. Skill Checks can be used by both the student and instructor to assess skill performance and can be used as part of a student's grade. Information on the skill performance as well as communication with the patient is included in the Skill Checks. Practice with patient cases is provided in many modules and is the focus of Part III. For each patient assessment procedure, Peak Procedures are provided. This feature provides step-by-step instructions necessary for mastering each skill. The Peak Procedures can be used independently by the students in a self-instruction format and incorporated into consistent demonstrations to instruct students and calibrate supervising faculty.

An Instructor's Resource CD-ROM is available as a valuable adjunct to the text. It contains the answers to the Quick Questions sections of the modules, additional discussion/role playing scenarios, possible student assignments, PowerPoint slides, and a testbank.

The content is up-to-date and presented in a concise, organized format. Techniques are clearly explained and supported with appropriate illustrations. In the module on head and neck examination, photographs are overlayed with anatomical diagrams to demonstrate the technique of, as well as the anatomy of, the examination. In the charting module, color coding of text and diagrams clarifies eruption dates of teeth. In the radiology module, radiographs are provided for practice identifying anatomical structures in addition to radiographic errors.

This text will assist the dental hygiene student to learn assessment skills and knowledge, provide the practicing dental hygienist with easy-to-use references at chairside, and refresh the dental hygienist returning to clinical practice.
Review of: Fundamentals of the Extra and Intra Oral Examination: An Assessment Tool for Dental Hygienists and Other Allied Health Professionals (DVD)

Margaret Fehrenbach, RDH, MS

Reviewed by Margaret J. Fehrenbach, RDH, MS, oral biologist and educational consultant, Seattle, Wash.

Fundamentals of the Extra and Intra Oral Examination: An Assessment Tool for Dental Hygienists and Other Allied Health Professionals.

Electronic Media Communications, University of Cincinnati, Raymond Walters College

Cincinnati, Ohio, 2005-2006

$35 for student copy; $40 for instructor copy with instructional material; $155 for instructor package (5 licenses). The DVD can be purchased from Electronic Media Communications by emailing rwcmedia@uc.edu

This DVD on the basics of examination of patients has an easy-to-use layout and design. Even in the intraoral areas, lighting generally was well done and the music overlay and voice-over were not too distracting to the clearly seen visuals. The use of color was well done. References are included for completeness.

Not only does the DVD provide video with voice-over of the extraoral and intraoral examination procedures in each of its 2 main chapters, it also has an interactive chapter of still photographs with an index of common oral lesions and basic anatomy encountered during the procedure. There is also appropriate emphasis that this is a "life-saving procedure."

Importantly, voice-over of pronunciation is included for these stills with sidebar information. The font could have been larger for easier reading. The stills could have been left on the screen a little longer to allow for reading of the important sidebar information on each one. The use of close-up with some of the still photographs really added more information and could have been used more often with the still photographs, such as with the palatine tonsils.

The DVD is geared toward dental care providers in one chapter as well as health care providers in its second chapter, which is an interesting concept for this examination procedure. However, not much is different between the presentations for these two health providers. Possibly, more explanation could be provided for the latter group so that they would feel more comfortable outside their normal practice purview. The DVD includes a discussion on how this procedure could vary according to the setting.

The information presented is technically accurate but in some cases could use further exploration. The cervical lymph nodes are categorized as one entity and at some point could have used further demarcation. Most of the examination took place with the clinician behind the patient and information can be missed, such as symmetry that could be seen from the front of the patient as during the examination of the TMJ and thyroid gland. Also, palpation of the masseter muscle should not take place with the patient having their head back on the head rest. The palpation of the frontal and nasal region and sinuses seems to have been left out. There was emphasis on the vermilion border of the lips, which added depth to the...
procedure. Using a damp gauze square when examining the tongue was one hint that they provided that will make patients feel more comfortable!

Possibly in the next edition, to further knowledge of the viewer, one additional chapter in the DVD could have correlated the anatomical still photographs with the video for an expanded view of the procedure, possibly with an overlay drawing of the anatomy on the patient. And a section on oral cancer would have made a strong impact of the importance of the procedure but it may be beyond the fundamental level of this video.

This well done DVD would be very useful in education of first-year dental hygiene students as well as other health care providers that deal with patient oral care. An Instructor's Copy with a CD is available; it has objectives, homework, checklist, and test bank. It could also be used in a study club environment or within large dental clinics for the review of the procedure.
Review of: Complementary and Alternative Medicine Sourcebook

Jackie Carpenter, DA, RDH

Reviewed by Jackie Carpenter, DA, RDH

Complementary and Alternative Medicine Sourcebook
Third Edition
Judd S
Omnigraphics Health Reference Series
Detroit, Mich, 2006
657 pages, indexed, hardcover
ISBN: 0-780-80864-9
$78.00
In the present state of health care in America, many people suffering from chronic or debilitating illnesses are searching for alternate therapies. Considering the cost of medications and the side effects that are becoming more evident, Americans are educating themselves about unconventional treatments for disease, which have actually been practiced for hundreds of years. The *Complementary and Alternative Medicine Sourcebook* is a quality, indexed, referenced guideline for many alternative practices that are quite popular around the world and have had unbelievable results. It is neatly organized to find facts quickly, is peer-reviewed, and stays current with the most recent advances.

As a registered dental hygienist, I am continually asking-being asked health history questions from patients. I hear their frustrations, their suffering, their longing for not a new drug, but for new hope. They are reaching out, they are reading alternative health articles and books, yet they know little about how to begin, what to expect, what has been tested safe, and who to trust. In my quest for answers, contrary to what the book has advised, I have found that traditional family medical doctors and professionals know little about these alternative therapies themselves. I do believe this trend is changing as more and more Americans are demanding it. I also believe that we still must ask our medical doctor before deciding on some alternative medicines because there could be interactions with your current medications or health issues. As health professionals, we have the responsibility to be aware of some of the more popular complementary and alternative medicines and practices so when our patients ask if their oral health or overall health could be affected or improved by these factors, we can give them an educated response or at least guide them to that information. If your medical doctor isn't familiar with complementary and alternative medicine, find someone who is qualified to advise you. One of those popular therapies is auricular acupuncture, which aids in smoking cessation, an oral health issue for many.

In reviewing the 80 chapters in this book, I was overwhelmed with information, although I know I can always reference information as needed. As our awareness develops, we will be ready to learn about new alternative medicines and this book will be the best resource. A few of the chapters that stand out are Chapter 6, Whole Medical Systems, and Chapter 7, Traditional Chinese Medicine. These chapters are interesting because we are slowly integrating these complementary and alternative medicines into our culture. Traditional Chinese Medicine dates back to 200 B.C., with variations that have grown from that. Acupuncture, herbal medicines, nutrition, and exercises like tai chi and qi gong are all becoming commonplace among chiropractic offices, vitamin stores, and even our own community centers. People suffering from arthritis and other chronic conditions are now being advised by their medical doctors to practice yoga, another popular form of complementary therapy.

We need guidance in order to better understand and utilize these complementary and alternative medicines. This sourcebook gives definitions, questions to ask, studies done, how they work, finding practitioners, costs, insurance coverage, how to read labels, benefits, drawbacks, tables for comparing, the future outlook, and even a glossary for medical terminology. What I found encouraging is that every chapter gives supporting research.

The goal of this particular edition was to be a sourcebook for Complementary and Alternative Medicine ranging from Mind-Body Medicine like prayer and spirituality, to Biologically Based Therapies, as in Aromatherapy. It also has alternative treatments for specific diseases such as cancer, diabetes, and osteoarthritis.

These are real issues that affect our daily lives. I enthusiastically recommend this sourcebook to anybody: my fellow dental hygienists, my patients, and anyone who cares for them. There are no illustrations in here, just facts, supporting research, detailed questions and answers, and hope for our renewed mind-body connection that our fast-paced lives have made it difficult to attain.

Cathryn L Frere, BSDH, MSEd

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Color Atlas of Dental Hygiene: Periodontology
Wolf HF and Hassell TM
Thieme Medical Publishers
Stuttgart, Germany, 2006
339 pages, illustrated, indexed, softcover
$61.95

The first edition of the Color Atlas of Dental Hygiene: Periodontology is a welcomed addition to the library of periodontology. Wolf and Hassell have compiled this brilliantly illustrated text exclusively for the dental hygienists in clinical practice, dental hygiene students, and dental hygiene educators. This is a very concise but inclusive text meant to
prepare the dental hygienist for their responsibility in clinical periodontal practice that is rapidly expanding beyond their present role in mechanical therapy. The primary means of presenting the latest concepts of dental hygiene practice is through clear color clinical pictures and instructional diagrams.

The text begins typically with the fundamentals of structural biology, microbiology, the host's reaction in disease pathogenesis, the classification of the periodontal diseases, periodontal indices, and epidemiology. The second section describes the latest laboratory microbiologic and host susceptibility tests available to diagnose the periodontal disease entities in addition to the standard methods of clinical assessment. The next section covers mechanical periodontal therapy, anti-infectious supportive therapy, host modulation, and maintenance therapy. Surgical procedures are only briefly summarized; however implant therapy is thoroughly covered.

Topics unique to this new book include the following: the procedure for full mouth therapy, periodontal disease risk determination, the clinical management of furcation involvement, and the methods used to correct iatrogenic and natural plaque retentive areas. Complete chapters are devoted to the treatment of the periodontally involved patient with HIV, the clinical significance of gingival recession, geriatric periodontology, and systemic risk considerations in treatment planning.

The beauty of this atlas is the use of clear, color pictures to describe what words cannot. With the before and after photographs, radiographs, and chartings of the various disease types, the cases become real for the reader. The authors use descriptive, artful illustrations and charts to relay information rather than use voluminous text. Some of these illustrations and charts are complex and require careful scrutiny by the reader.

The chapters related to immunology and the host's role in disease progression are very detailed and may need clarification and simplification for the student dental hygienist. Not included with the topic chapters are key word definitions, review exercises, or case studies that are part of many undergraduate textbooks. Although the authors give permission to reproduce the photographs and illustrations in the book, it would be more convenient, especially for the educator, to have this material available online or on a compact disk. A challenge for the reader in this country is the use of the International/FDI system of tooth numbering. The text does, however, give an international perspective of periodontal instruments, products, and clinical procedures.

The authors do succeed in their goal of providing the basic knowledge and rationale needed for the dental hygienist of the new century to assume greater responsibility in periodontal therapy and for the total health of the patient by means of a concise, graphic, and pictorial text. The dental hygiene student will be drawn to the subject of periodontology by the inviting photographs and illustrations; however, the educator may need to supplement and clarify some of the material to this first edition if used as a course text.
Review of: Practice Management for Dental Hygienists

Anne Gwozdek, RDH, BA

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Practice Management for Dental Hygienists
Andrews EK
Lippincott Williams & Wilkins
Philadelphia Pa, 2007
372 pages, illustrated, indexed
ISBN: 0-781-75359-7
$46.95

With limited texts focusing specifically on practice management for dental hygienists, Esther K. Andrews has compiled a resource that is most useful for dental hygiene education and currently licensed practitioners. Practice Management for Dental Hygienists covers 4 general topic areas: basics of dentistry and dental law, office management, applied
communications, and employability skills. Included in the chapters within each section are review questions, case studies, and individual and group critical thinking activities. The appendix provides "answers to review questions and selected critical thinking activities."

Each of the 4 sections contains a summary that identifies how content has addressed "Competencies for Entry into the Profession of Dental Hygiene" approved by the American Dental Education Association 2003 House of Delegates. Also included in the section summary are a wealth of references and resources, which includes organizations, online resources, pamphlets/dissertations/papers, and articles. There is no accompanying CD-ROM or web site support for this text.

Section III: Office Management includes state-of-the-art practice management concepts including the use of "recare" or "continuing care" in lieu of recall. Morning huddles, scheduling for production, and minimizing broken appointments are all key elements within dental hygiene practice and are covered well. Andrews provides important management guidelines for dental hygienists, integrating these appropriately within the umbrella of the dental practice team.

Expanding content in several areas would enhance this comprehensive text. The information related to accurate and comprehensive treatment record keeping was limited. Expanding this subtopic to include examples of good treatment notes and linking this to risk management would have been useful in Section III. Within Section IV: Employability Skills, information regarding overall practice health (including dental hygiene production) as a component of a job performance evaluation was missing.

*Practice Management for Dental Hygienists* serves as a valuable text for integration in dental hygiene curriculum. It is also a fine resource for practicing dental hygienists who are looking to improve their value and effectiveness within a dental practice team.