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A dental treasure chest: tips and tricks for daily practice

W. Bücking
UK: Quintessence
price £91.00; pp 332
ISBN 9781850971566

This book is directed at the general practitioner aiming to demystify certain aspects of treatment and to provide guidance on management of a variety of challenging clinical scenarios encountered on a daily basis. Regrettably the book largely fails to meet this objective.

The book, representing a compilation of clinical tips the author has published in a series of articles in a dental magazine, was initially published in German and translated into English. It is divided into eight sections encompassing restorative dentistry, periodontics, implantology, orthodontics and ergonomics. The author concedes in the preface that he is not a natural author. Unfortunately this is borne out in the text with the writing often disjointed, information often poorly presented and inaccessible, with eight illustrations or more per page in some sections and large bodies of text referring to these illustrations elsewhere.

On a more positive note the section on ergonomics is particularly pertinent and worthy of inclusion. Likewise useful guidance on fabrication of provisional restorations and complete dentures; streamlining of clinical and laboratory procedures; and the application of magnifying loupes are featured. Undoubtedly the author documents his treatment carefully with excellent photographic records.

However, a number of the hints provided by the author are somewhat unusual, with the author conceding that academic institutions have been resistant to their evaluation or adoption. For instance an aggressive approach to periodontal splinting of posterior teeth is described involving fabrication of

class II cavities in previously unrestored teeth; a technique for class V cavity preparation is also highlighted using trephines to increase micromechanical retention; treatment approach to management of occlusal parafunction is governed by completion of a Luscher Colour Diagnosis test which involves asking the patient to choose their favourite of eight presented to them. The author suggests responses which will highlight the patient's psychological status and thus suitability for occlusal treatment.

Finally the author relies heavily on lateral cephalograms for diagnosis and treatment planning. This radiograph is rarely used in a general practice setting and guidelines on exposure to ionising radiation would certainly preclude their use in the instances highlighted by the author.

Consequently although this book has some interesting components, regrettably I feel it is unsuitable for students of dentistry. Certain aspects may however be of some interest to more experienced and discerning clinicians.

P. S. Fleming

Oral and intravenous bisphosphonate-induced osteonecrosis of the jaws: history, etiology, prevention and treatment

R. E. Marx
UK: Quintessence
price £58.00; pp 148
ISBN 9780867154627

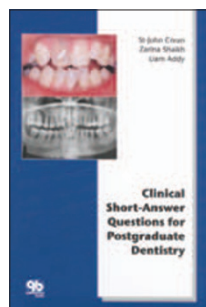
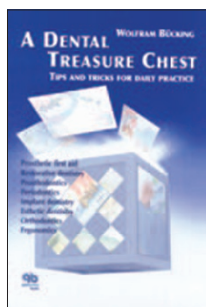
This is the first textbook published that is devoted to this relatively new condition, which is becoming more prevalent. The author, who is Professor of Surgery and Chief, Division of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, has a wealth of clinical experience and research for which

he has received highly distinguished awards. The general aim of the book is to inform the readers of the history, aetiology, prevention and treatment of bisphosphonate-induced osteonecrosis of the jaws.

The seven relatively short chapters review the history of the condition, the mode of action and pharmacokinetics of bisphosphonates, and its medical indications. There is a chapter devoted to osteopetrosis which draws comparison to osteonecrosis as it has been known to produce identical signs and symptoms. The risks, prevention and management of bisphosphonate-induced osteonecrosis of the jaws are considered in two separate chapters, one covering oral bisphosphonates and the other intravenous bisphosphonates. In the final chapter, there are 12 clinical case reports that have been actually managed by the author.

The book is carefully set out and takes the reader through an orderly explanation of this highly complex condition. The text is written in a clear and concise manner, which is complemented by the excellent inclusion of coloured photographs, radiographs, graphs, tables, histopathological illustrations and general diagrams. A valuable feature is the table showing the relative risk of initiating intravenous bisphosphonate-induced osteonecrosis with each oral surgical procedure. Another significant factor is the indications and dosage information for all currently available bisphosphonates, showing their relative potency and relative risk of osteonecrosis of the jaws. The book itself is evidence-based as the author makes frequent references to high quality published research to support the informative text throughout the book. The overall standard of presentation is very good and both the glossary and index are well set out.

The book is primarily targeted at dentists and oral and maxillofacial surgeons. Since the condition is becoming more prevalent, it is imperative that general dental practitioners in primary



care are aware of this. With the material covered, the book would be of great value for candidates preparing for postgraduate examinations. In my opinion, it is testament to the calibre of the author that I did not come across anything to be criticised. The author makes a difficult subject very easy to read and understand and this is a textbook I would highly recommend.

M. Pancholi

Clinical short-answer questions for postgraduate dentistry

S-J. Crean, Z. Shaikh, L. Addy
UK: Quintessence
price £32.00; pp 184
ISBN 9781850971023

The aims of this book, as stated by the authors, are to give the candidates the opportunity to put their knowledge to the test before their postgraduate dental exams and to provide a useful measure of how well their studies are progressing. The authors hope that if weaknesses are highlighted this will encourage further preparation, thus reducing the risk of poor examination performance.

This is a 171-page A5 format hard cover book written by clinicians who are involved in teaching and examining in the MFDS (shortly to become the MJDF) of the Faculty of Dental Surgery, Royal College of Surgeons of England.

It consists of two parts. Part I contains 37 patient-based cases/scenarios in the same format as clinical material in the major postgraduate dental exams. Each case has three to six questions followed by helpful explanations. The range of topics is broad and the cases

are set in no particular order or theme. They are derived from various dental disciplines including oral medicine, oral and maxillofacial surgery and radiology. The cases are frequently encountered in clinical practice and the questions indeed reflect the breadth and depth of knowledge that will be expected for success at this postgraduate level. Some of the questions asked not only relate to differential diagnosis, treatment planning and ongoing care in a particular case but also probe relevant background medical knowledge and basic sciences. There is a list of key references.

Part II consists of a selection of 25 clinical cases that focus on restorative dentistry. Attempts are made to indicate how to approach and solve difficult problems. The answers are concise but provide the essential information. There is also a bibliography of further reading on each topic.

Generally, this book is well written, user-friendly and fits the style of many current postgraduate dental examinations. The quality of the colour illustrations throughout the book is good but some of the radiographic reproductions were disappointing. These latter images do not always demonstrate the point being made either because relevant features are cropped, for example the temporomandibular joints, or the wrong radiographic view is used, for example panoramic instead of intra-oral views. Future editions should take account of these constructive comments.

In short, this elegant book is useful not only to its intended audience but also to undergraduate dental students and to general practitioners. The authors have certainly achieved their aim.

E. G. Absi