

Book reviews

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SALIVA AND ORAL HEALTH, 4TH EDITION



M. Edgar, C. Dawes,
D. O'Mullane
Stephen Hancocks Ltd
price £25.00; pp 168
ISBN 9780956566836

Saliva and oral health helps capture the readers interest in what is commonly regarded as a dry subject within the field of dentistry (excuse the pun). The revised and updated fourth edition of this well-known and popular text is as informative and user friendly as previous versions. Its release follows considerable advances in salivary research since the publication of the previous edition in 2004.

The book is split into eight easy to navigate chapters. Each of which is well written and guides the reader through a clear introduction to a concise 'clinical highlights' summary at the end, which would be particularly useful to the busy practitioner in need of a quick reference to any aspect of oral health influenced by saliva.

Initial chapters include an introduction to salivary gland anatomy and physiology, detailing mechanisms of salivary secretion. Factors influencing composition and flow rate are clearly explained with the use of tables and diagrams to aid the readers' understanding.

The subsequent chapters take the reader through the protective effects of saliva and the implications of gland hypofunction and xerostomia. The use of tables listing possible causes and complications of gland hypofunction, and paragraphs detailing treatment options available are of significant use

in assisting the dental practitioner's management of patients experiencing dry mouth. Additionally, the inclusion of an example patient questionnaire to help establish a diagnosis of xerostomia is a particularly useful tool.

Notably, throughout the book the reader's understanding of impaired salivary function is strengthened by the use of clinical photographs to display the various clinical presentations, such as gland enlargement and secondary caries. Although one criticism is that some of the clinical images are a little too small and of poor resolution.

In conclusion, this is a well laid out and concisely written publication that clearly conveys the authors' knowledge to the reader. The text claims to be aimed at the 'progressive and inquisitive practitioner'; however, I feel it would also be useful for undergraduate and postgraduate dental students alike. In particular this would be an essential addition to the bookshelf of any dental practitioner with a special interest in the field of oral medicine

L. Hunter

NON-METALLIC BIOMATERIALS FOR TOOTH REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT



P. Valittu (ed)
Woodhead Publishing
price £145.00; pp 432
ISBN 9780857092441

This book is a presentation of cutting edge research and evidence-based developments in non-metallic biomaterials for tooth repair and replacement. Its aim is to inspire students, clinicians

and researchers to learn advances in the field and consider current, evidence-based research findings. It guides clinicians on how to provide a reliable replacement for anatomic loss by implementing treatment modalities that preserve and parallel the natural biology. The authorship is diverse and includes well known names from across the globe, and the editor is a world renowned author of numerous publications in the field of dental biomaterials.

Thirteen chapters are split into three distinct but related sections. Section one features the unique physical properties of enamel and dentin. The author details the biomineralisation and biomimicry of tooth enamel in which some preceding beliefs and teachings are challenged. The second section details the properties of ceramic dental biomaterials, sol-gel bioactive glass ceramics and its numerous applications in dentistry. The third section details in depth composite restorative materials, which include antibacterial composite materials and composite-based oral implants.

The beginning of each chapter starts with an abstract, which discusses the topic mentioned and its relevance, to aid the reader in the application of the information. New key words are also introduced. It then gives a concise introduction that is then divided into subtopics, explored to a great depth in a logistical fashion and heavily referenced. The illustrations and diagrams aid understanding of the subtopics, with footnotes providing a useful outline of each figure. Conclusions summarise at the end of the chapter and the reference lists offer the chance for further reading and analysis.