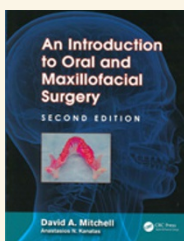


## BOOK REVIEW



AN INTRODUCTION TO ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY, SECOND EDITION  
David A. Mitchell and Anastasios N. Kanatas;  
Taylor & Francis (CRC Press)  
ISBN 9781482248357

*An introduction to oral and maxillofacial surgery* (second edition) provides an exceptional overview of the full range of topics related to this surgical specialty. The book addresses the core competencies relevant to undergraduates and postgraduates in early specialist training. The second edition also delivers an international perspective of oral and maxillofacial surgery encompassing aspects of the specialty in the UK, USA and Germany.

The book is divided into well-organised sections and is cleverly structured. The initial section aims to inform, whilst the main body of the title instructs practitioners, leading on to the final chapters, which provide valuable information for specialists. This approach provides a comprehensive, strong base of information which inspires, guides and encourages the reader to develop their knowledge by using the recommended reading list provided to investigate further.

The first section provides a solid foundation of the oral and maxillofacial specialty whilst also preparing the clinician on how to provide basic patient care. This unique style allows the reader to understand the importance of a holistic approach to patient care taking into account all patient factors rather than just their disease. It also provides an accurate account of the patient journey and what to expect when working within a secondary care environment whilst teaching the importance of planning surgery strategically and safely for it to be effective.

The full colour photographs of instruments are of high quality and are supplemented with detailed descriptions for their use. This theme continues throughout the remainder of the book enabling the author to use photographs and diagrams to illustrate fundamental concepts clearly. The main body of the text focuses on oral surgery and maxillofacial surgery and is conveniently separated into two surgical sections. These chapters give a concise and informative account of conditions and disease processes, diagnostic approaches and management strategies including soft and hard tissue surgical treatments.

Overall, this text is very beneficial for undergraduates and early trainees. The major strengths involve preparation of these groups for practising within the hospital environment and the breadth of information delivered surrounding each topic, which is delivered at an appropriate level. This is a valuable edition for any clinician considering specialist training within the oral and maxillofacial division.

**N. Ball**

## THE CASE FOR RESTRICTIVE LABOUR LAWS HAS NOT BEEN MADE

The British Dental Association (BDA) has strongly criticised sweeping labour law reforms proposed by government.

The government is planning a 50% participation threshold for all trade union ballots for industrial action. There will also be a new threshold of at least 40% of those entitled to vote required for strikes affecting essential public services. This would mean in effect non-voters are assumed as voting against any strike action, a principle which is not used in any other area of British public life.

The health sector has very low levels of industrial action, with only nine working days lost per 1,000 employees in 2014, compared to figures in the hundreds in other sectors.

The BDA has argued that the current proposals represent the most restrictive trade union laws in the Western world, potentially outside the International Labour Organisations conventions, and may be open to legal challenge.

Mick Armstrong, Chair of the British Dental Association said: 'Dentists have never been on strike, but as a profession we have little choice but to reject these proposals out of hand.'

'In setting out what would be the most restrictive labour laws in the Western world, the government has chosen to forego the usual niceties such as evidence. In the key areas of fairness and proportionality, areas which should show what these proposals might actually mean for patients and practitioners, we are left in the dark.'

'Health professionals take their responsibilities incredibly seriously. The threat of industrial action does not loom large over our hospitals or our high street practices. So if the government want to sweep away a cornerstone for workers seeking a better deal, they have a responsibility to find a half-convincing argument first.'

'The only clear beneficiaries from such poorly thought out, punitive and ultimately unnecessary legislation will be the lawyers. The government must think again, and spare taxpayers from the inevitable legal bill.'

