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Orthodontic concepts and strategies

Ed. F.P.G.P. van der Linden
Surrey: Quintessence, 2004
price £110, pp304
ISBN 1850970947

This is a lavishly produced book by a well-respected international orthodontist. Previous publications by the same author have revealed his great knowledge of orthodontic theory. This publication, on the other hand, reveals his vast clinical expertise.

The book is sub-divided into 18 chapters covering topics from interceptive orthodontics to effective retention. The first chapter looks at possible complications in dental development during the transition of the incisors and describes the process of arch development. The next chapter discusses possible interceptive procedures. Techniques such as 'serial' slicing of the mesial surfaces of the primary canines and molars are described, as well as the indications for extraction of the first deciduous molars and their successors at the same session. This chapter is not for the faint hearted! The cases are, however, extremely well documented.

Chapter 3 looks at the role of removable appliances and the clever use of resin composites, bondable buttons and elastic traction to increase their range of application. The fourth chapter, on the use of headgear, is a weak point due to its mainly theoretical nature, but some good advice regarding the actual fitting of headgear is included. The next four chapters look at the use of headgear with removable appliance combinations or functional appliances (Andresen activator and the Van Beek appliance). These impressive chapters are a testament to Professor van der Linden's diligent recordkeeping over the years. Long-term follow-up (>20 years) of particular cases demonstrate the effects of favourable/unfavourable growth patterns on overall treatment outcome.

Chapter 9 looks at partial fixed

appliances with examples shown of combined restorative and periodontal cases. Chapter 10 aims to demonstrate the reduced need for complete fixed appliances by illustrating cases of removable and fixed appliance systems working together. The author's analytical thinking and sound mechanical background are obvious. Chapter 11 looks at the treatment of impacted canines and this is a 'must-read' chapter for all dental practitioners. The remaining chapters cover various topics eg Class II Div (ii) malocclusion, dental asymmetry, open bites, missing incisors and the role of occlusion. Some of the suggested orthodontic methods are rather 'historic' now but are still a fascinating read.

Overall, this is an excellent publication, which can be wholeheartedly recommended. The illustrations, line diagrams and photographs are all of excellent quality. This book is relevant to every clinical orthodontist and should provide a constant source of future reference with its plethora of clinical 'pearls'.

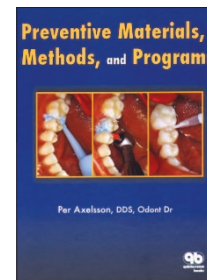
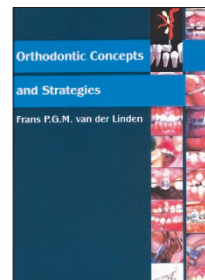
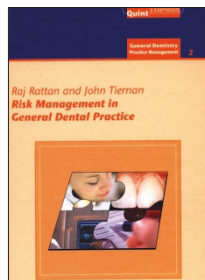
D.O. Morris

Risk management in general dental practice

R. Rattan, J. Tiernan
Surrey: Quintessence, 2004
price £28, pp154
ISBN 1850970661

As part of the highly successful *Quintessentials of dental practice* series, this book aims to give GDPs an informative overview of a subject in a short space of time. It is quite surprising just how much information has been packed into this A5 book – which can be read from cover to cover in just a few hours.

Risk management in healthcare is a relatively new phenomenon; it has



become increasingly common due to the attempt – by the NHS in particular – to contain spiralling litigation costs against doctors and trusts. This is a timely addition to the oeuvre from a general dental practice perspective, combining the theory of risk management with the practicalities of introducing workable systems into your practice.

The 10 chapters, written by two well respected dento-legal writers and lecturers, cover: the basics of understanding risk and risk management; ethical considerations; and the application of these theories to areas of general practice where problems occur with unerring frequency. These areas are consent, the dentist-patient relationship, clinical records, clinical negligence, handling complaints and the more general concepts of business risk.

Risk is defined early on as: 'The probability that a hazard will give rise to harm. It is not the same as uncertainty. Risk is when you do not know what will happen but you do know the probabilities; uncertainty is when you do not even know the probabilities'. Risk management therefore is rooted in the mathematics of probability but set against a background of a decision making process 'amidst uncertainty'.

We live and work in an environment where a potent cocktail of high patient expectations and easily accessible litigation services make identifying areas of risk an important consideration. The fact that a failure in patient communication is the predominant factor in patient complaints and litigation in 80% of cases means the advice in the chapter on this subject alone warrants the cover price.

The book contains very good practical advice; the chapter on dentist-patient relationships goes into great detail about the types of patients and the associated risks that accompany red flag patients – which acts as a reminder to all practitioners to be aware of the emotional baggage that some patients carry. The bottom line with risk management however is that 'like it or

not, it is inevitable it generates paper trails, documentation is an important part of the process'. This is emphasised in the chapters on consent and clinical records as well as clinical negligence.

Entire books have been written on the subject of clinical negligence so a 12-page synopsis could not hope to cover this vast and ever changing subject. Instead it gives some essential points with an indication of the high risk areas and common drivers of litigation, and some practical tips on reducing a practice's exposure to risk.

I was particularly intrigued by the chaos theory that the author expounds with reference to Spielberg and Crichton's *Jurassic Park*... The small investment in buying, reading and implementing even 50% of what this book advocates could save you from the consequences of making mistakes and avoiding complaints.

L. D'Cruz

Preventive materials, methods and programs

P. Axelsson
Surrey: Quintessence
price £132, pp652
ISBN 0867153644

The aim of this text is to provide readers with updated information about various preventive materials and methods, needs-related preventive programs and analytical epidemiology for quality control. The text is the fourth of a five volume series of books on clinical prevention and disease management by the author. This book contains nine very detailed chapters focusing on a range of clinical preventive measures and methods. Topics covered include: mechanical plaque control through self care; professional mechanical tooth cleaning; chemical plaque control; and

the use of fluorides and fissure sealants. The text also covers community preventive programs and oral health promotion.

Does this expensive and very large book meet its stated aim? The text presents a detailed account of what can be termed clinical prevention. Various clinical images and figures are used to illustrate each chapter. However, the approach adopted in this book is very narrow in focus and fails to acknowledge contemporary public health approaches to prevention. Although details are presented of a range of studies – many of which have been conducted by the author himself – limited reference is made to the findings of up-to-date evidence based systematic reviews. For example in relation to fluoride use, no reference is made to the recently published Cochrane reviews^{1,2} and with regard to oral health promotion, the range of published effectiveness reviews are also ignored.^{3,4}

Professor Axelsson's approach to clinical prevention has been very influential around the world. This book provides a very detailed account of his preventive model.

R.G. Watt

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3. Kay L, Locker D. Is dental health education effective? A systematic review of current evidence. *Community Dent Oral Epidemiol* 1996; 24: 231-5.
4. Sprod A, Anderson R, Treasure, E. Effective oral health promotion. *Literature Review* 1996. Cardiff: Health Promotion Wales.