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Management of medical emergencies: For the dental team

M. H. Thornhill, M. N. Pemberton, G. J. Atherton
UK: Stephen Hancocks Ltd
price £29.95, pp 72
ISBN 0954614542

As the title suggests, this book is aimed at the whole dental team. In the teaching of basic life support there is an emphasis that the best teaching takes place in the usual place of work in familiar surroundings. Each team member (receptionist, nurse, dentist...) is then able to become familiar with their role in their usual environment. Managing medical emergencies is definitely a team effort in any setting.

This new publication is a slim, A4, colour, soft back book in the style of the *BDJ* clinical guides which readers may already be familiar with. The book is liberally illustrated with colour pictures and photographs, and boxes within the text highlight and summarise important areas. In addition there are clinical scenarios which are used as examples of typical presentations of medical emergencies, and the subsequent text discusses in more detail the management of the condition.

There are four chapters in this book discussing: emergency equipment and techniques, management of the collapsed patient, management of the causes of collapse, and medical emergencies in the conscious patient. Each chapter is subdivided into smaller easy to digest sections with clear and concise information and explanations.

Management of medical emergencies is an evolving field and all dental healthcare workers should be as up to date as possible. Unfortunately, in publishing a book such as this the possibility of guideline changes overtaking the text exists. In this case, the published guidelines on the management of adult basic life support have been updated since publication of

the book. The Resuscitation Council (UK) guidelines (www.resus.org.uk) for basic life support for an adult patient have been changed and now the guidance for an initial two rescue breaths has been dropped, and the compressions to breaths ratio changed from 15:2, to 30:2.

The authors have various medical and dental qualifications and backgrounds in hospital and dental practice environments and so have direct knowledge and experience of the things they tell us about in this book. Notwithstanding inevitable updates, this book would be essential reading for all members of the dental team in any work environment – and an invaluable learning and revision aid for dental undergraduates and DCPs.

P. A. Atkin

Promoting children's oral health: Theory and practice

A. Sheiham, M. Bönecker (Eds)
UK: Quintessence
price £29, pp 191
ISBN 8587425609

Considering the importance of oral health promotion, there are surprisingly few books dedicated to the subject; fewer still are aimed specifically at clinicians primarily working with children. This book is divided into 10 chapters and each is written by a dentist who has worked or studied with Professor Aubrey Sheiham at University College London. Topics covered include the epidemiology of caries, periodontal disease, dental trauma and malocclusion, as well as strategies to promote children's oral health, both on an individual and a population basis. The connection between oral and general health, in particular the Common Risk Factors Approach, is stressed, especially in relation to dietary advice and smoking

cessation. The use of fluoride in caries prevention rightfully receives a whole chapter and includes a helpful section on the critical appraisal of published material.

In general, the book is well written and the information provided is clear and easy to read. The text is referenced, and the references listed at the end of each chapter, although nine are missing from the third chapter. Occasionally it is obvious that English is not the first language of half of the authors, but this is rarely problematic. More frustrating are the frequent references to Brazilian studies that, although relatively interesting, are of limited benefit to clinicians based in the United Kingdom. The diagrams and photographs used are comparatively few in number and are habitually of poor quality, superfluous, or are included without explanation.

In summary, this book will perform well as a reference text for those seeking to improve the oral health of our children. While the main body of the text is comprehensive, the shaded text boxes will serve as a useful aide-memoir prior to examinations.

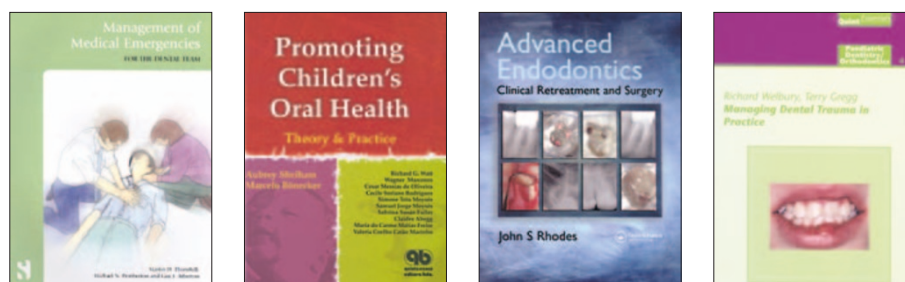
E. Hingston

Advanced endodontics – Clinical retreatment and surgery

J. S. Rhodes
UK: Taylor and Francis
price £75, pp 206
ISBN 1841844365

This hardcover book has 214 pages divided into 10 chapters. Each chapter is extensively illustrated, with a total of 454 illustrations, and the book is well-referenced throughout, including some 2,005 papers.

The first two chapters cover rationale, decision-making and planning of retreatment. Chapter three provides some



useful suggestions on how to dismantle coronal restorations to allow access for non-surgical retreatment. The next four chapters give practical advice on different aspects of re-treating root canals, including irrigation and medication. Finally, there are three chapters on surgical endodontics.

The book is aimed at a wide variety of clinicians interested in endodontics, including trainees and specialists. It offers practical solutions to retreatment problems and it contains much useful information. The text is supplemented by some helpful line diagrams and tables that clarify the concepts and ideas described. This is particularly useful as, due to the large number of pictures, the text is sometimes a little difficult to follow. I was concerned by Fig. 7.24 (irrigation of the root canal system), which is not referred to by the text and there is no indication whether this proposed irrigation regime is supported by research.

Whilst there are many illustrations, some have limited value. Radiographs in textbooks often have low contrast and there are examples in this book. Similarly, there can be difficulties with reproduction of clinical photographs. Some of the pictures taken through the microscope are unclear. For example, Fig. 8.20 refers to protection of the mental nerve but unfortunately it cannot be seen in the picture. The colour balance of some pictures leaves a yellow or red tint, which detracts from the point being illustrated. The legend for some of the pictures is inaccurate; for example Fig. 5.9 states that 'silver particles can clearly be seen dispersed through the epithelium', when in fact they are present in connective tissue.

Overall I found the book to be something of a curate's egg. It is very good and clear in places, particularly the line diagrams and the section on dismantling coronal restorations. Other parts are not quite as strong and there is minimal comment on the difficulty of removing separated instruments without overly weakening the teeth. It is obvious

that a huge amount of work has gone into its preparation, and whilst a little pricey at £75.00, it can be recommended with some minor reservations.

H. Lloyd

Managing dental trauma in practice

R. Welbury, T. Gregg
UK: Quintessence
price £28, pp 124
ISBN 1850970874

This book is from the Paediatric Dentistry/Orthodontics section of the *Quintessentials for General Dental Practitioners* Series. The book is aimed at dental undergraduates and general dental practitioners (GDPs).

The layout of the book is similar to a clinician's approach to the management of a patient who has suffered dental trauma. The majority of traumatic dental injuries occur in paediatric patients. However, the management of injuries to permanent teeth apply to adults too. The same framework is implemented for each chapter: clearly stated aim, outcome, aetiology, diagnosis and treatment of each type of paediatric dental trauma. Further reading is listed at the end of each chapter and key points are helpfully listed at the end of each section.

The introductory chapter states the aim and scope of the information covered by the text. Prevention is also an important aspect of dental trauma handled in this book.

Clearly labelled clinical photographs and diagrams help the reader to visualise the treatment described by the text. The 'trauma stamp' table, described in the first chapter, is referred to throughout. This serves as a helpful reminder for clinicians regarding the logical approach to the initial assessment and follow-up protocol for dental trauma.

An alternative to the conventional apexification of a permanent tooth using mineral trioxide aggregate (MTA) as an artificial root-end barrier in one visit is mentioned. Root end closure (apexification) is usually required to produce an apical calcific barrier. This process can take up to 18 months, occasionally up to 30 months. MTA use may be a practical alternative if patients are unwilling to have repeated appointments, to create an artificial apical stop.

There is an important section regarding non-accidental injury in paediatric patients and the elderly. This chapter lists helpful questions and observations that should be considered when a child presents with suspicious circumstances relating to dental trauma. Following the Laming Report into the death of Victoria Climbié, The British Society for Paediatric Dentistry and the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health produced a guidance template which dentists can use to list the relevant doctors and nurses with particular expertise in child protection. This template was issued in 2004 and also has guidance for GDPs regarding procedure for reporting suspected child abuse or neglect.

This textbook is a colourful incisive aid to the management of dental trauma and would be a useful addition to any clinician's library.

E. Henley