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Manual of clinical periodontics (second edition)

F. G. Serio, C. E. Hawley
USA: Lexi-Comp
price \$49.95, pp 168
ISBN 1591951763

This book forms part of Lexi-Comp's Dental Reference Library series and is described as a quick reference for general dentists, dental students, dental hygienists and dental hygiene students. The soft back, ring-bound format is quite practical and the chapter tabs make it very easy to use. It is attractively presented and contains over 200 excellent colour photographs. The 12 chapters each provide a good overview of the material in a logical sequence. The whole book is written in a question-and-answer style format, which makes for very easy reading, although this approach can sometimes appear a little contrived.

There is a very good summary of basic biology followed by more comprehensive coverage of clinical periodontics. There are no fewer than three chapters covering surgical treatment of periodontal defects. There are also brief sections on implant dentistry and periodontal emergencies. One of the best features is the high number of very clear photographs showing clinical examples to support the text. Many readers will find the sample treatment plans helpful, but it is obviously impossible to cover every scenario within the scope of this book. The authors give a good outline of the principles of periodontal treatment, although they appear to place an emphasis on the role of occlusal therapy. It is disappointing that patient motivation and communication are not given as much prominence in the text.

It is apparent that this book is really aimed at the US market. Readers from other countries may be confused by American spellings and terms such as 'therapist' (used in this context to refer

to a periodontist). There is a large appendix containing American Insurance Codes for periodontal treatment, which has no use for non-US readers. However, the chapters on surgical treatment provide a very good introduction to this aspect of clinical periodontics, which is often not well taught at this level in the UK.

The book is well suited to the target readership and is clearly written throughout. Postgraduate students or specialists may be frustrated by the lack of references within the text, but there is a comprehensive list of further reading at the end of the book. The material covered and the approach taken by the authors would certainly complement other core texts in clinical periodontics.

G. Sharpe

Oral microbiology and immunology

R. J. Lamont, R. A. Burne, M. S. Lantz,
D. J. LeBlanc (Eds)
USA: ASM Press
price \$79.95, pp 482
ISBN 1555812627

This new textbook is intended for dental students, dental practitioners and health care professionals. It provides a comprehensive insight into the advances in our understanding of how microbes in the oral cavity interact with each other, the host and their importance in systemic disease. It is also a useful source of information on the use of antibiotics, sanitisation, sterilisation and disinfection procedures.

The book is divided into three sections: in Section I, 'General principles of oral microbiology', the authors draw on examples from the oral microbiota or aspects of oral physiology to illustrate bacterial architecture and general principles of bacterial growth. A chapter on the isolation, classification and

identification of oral microorganisms covers the array of molecular techniques that are now available to researchers and which have revealed the tremendous diversity of oral microbes that constitute the oral flora, of which only a fraction can be cultivated. Chapters on the ecology, physiology, genetics and molecular biology of oral microbes deal in depth with the growth and metabolism of bacteria in the oral cavity and the fascinating and complex interactions that can occur within dental biofilms. 'Population genetics of oral bacteria' discusses the dynamic evolution of highly diverse oral microbial populations and their co-evolution with the host. The final chapter in this section deals with the immune response to oral microorganisms. Section II deals with 'Oral diseases of microbial etiology' with separate chapters devoted to 'Caries', 'Periodontal diseases', 'Oral virology', 'Fungi and fungal infections', 'Endodontic microbiology' and 'Systemic diseases and the oral microbiota'. Each one starts with a basic introduction or overview and takes the reader through the aetiology and pathogenesis of each disease, covering recent research, treatment and prevention. Section III covers 'Control of oral infections' with two chapters respectively on 'Antibiotics and treatment of infectious diseases' and 'Infection control in dentistry'.

As a teaching aid this textbook will be very useful to instructors and students. The topics are generally very clearly presented; each chapter is summarised by a list of key points and several chapters have suggestions for further reading. Instructors who recommend the book to their students will want to avail themselves of the complementary CD-ROM containing all the coloured figures and tables, many of which are excellent. It is a pleasure to read and a valuable source of information.

R. L. Sammons