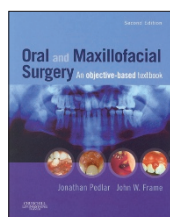


Book reviews

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ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY: AN OBJECTIVE-BASED TEXTBOOK (2ND EDITION)



J. Pedlar, J. W. Frame
UK: Churchill Livingstone
price £39.99; pp 320
ISBN 9780443100734

With only one edition published, this contemporary text has already established itself as a respected reference for undergraduates, postgraduate dentists in training and general practitioners alike. This second edition retains a winning formula, whilst improving on the relative shortcomings of its predecessor.

From the title itself, this book has a goal achievable in the very layout of its chapters. Before you even consider starting a chapter, the assumed knowledge and learning outcome sections allow the reader to gauge their relative understanding of the subject matter. Every chapter starts with a brief rationale for the relevance of the information following which it is condensed into highlighted summary boxes for easy reference. For the keen reader, recent articles and accessible CAL packages are available to deepen their appreciation for the respective areas. The self-assessments are more extensive than the first edition, allowing the student to apply their knowledge to more diverse clinical scenarios.

The chapters cover the breadth of oral and maxillofacial surgery and the authors have attempted to make the textbook as up-to-date as possible. This is understandably difficult. Recent 'hot topics' such as bisphosphonate associated osteonecrosis of the jaws and

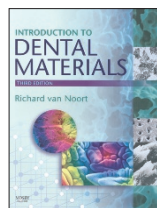
MRSA infections have been briefly discussed. The contributions of various authors from numerous institutes minimise the dogmatic tendencies hidden in other texts. An attempt has been made to implement evidence based practice wherever possible.

This text is not suitable for those wishing for a quick, concise reference as information from the summary boxes is best absorbed when the subsections are read in context. However, the use of illustrations makes the learning experience complete. Visualisation of the practical skills allows the student to grasp the science behind the techniques quicker. This is supplemented with appendices on the suggested armentarium of instruments for the common surgical procedures.

In summary, this is a comprehensive yet concise, up-to-date review of oral and maxillofacial surgery. It benefits from a logical layout and flowing text compounded by relevant illustrations. At a reasonable price, this book should be on every dentist's shelf.

M. M. Zbaeda

INTRODUCTION TO DENTAL MATERIALS (3RD EDITION)



R. van Noort
UK: Elsevier
price £39.99; pp 304
ISBN 0723434042

This is an important publication since it is one of the core textbooks in dental materials for many dental students in the United Kingdom and most likely, further afield. The author is Richard van Noort, Professor in Dental Materials Science, at The University of Sheffield.

Professor van Noort has an international reputation in the field of dental materials. This third edition aims to make dental materials science readily accessible to the dental student. The book's aim is eloquently summarised by the author in the preface: 'to guide the reader down the long road to becoming informed practitioners who not only know what should be done and how it should be done, but also why it should be done'.

The author has retained the same style from previous editions and divided the book into three sections: basic science for dental materials, clinical dental materials and laboratory and related dental materials.

Reading of the basic science chapters would allow anyone to get a grasp of the principles and terminology involved in dental materials. This would equip them well for further reading including scrutinising the data and claims made by material manufacturers.

Content new to this edition includes, in the chapter on endodontic materials, a short but well written section on MTA. The section on polyacid modified resin composites has also been updated. Addition cured silicones are now covered in more detail in the chapter on impression materials. This chapter also features a useful table comparing the various impression materials.

Section three, dealing with laboratory based materials, has been expanded and updated. Pure Alumina and Zirconia core systems are described, including the application of CAD-CAM technology. The table outlining the relative merits of a number of ceramic crown systems provides a useful summary of this area. The further reading sections have been updated with contemporary references

to key journal articles. The 'clinical significance' boxes, containing key points of relevance to clinical practice, neatly intersperse the text and 245 informative illustrations.

The book represents value for money. It comprehensively covers the subject area, is well written and is easy to read. In updated guise, it rightfully should remain a core text for the dental undergraduate. Indeed, it is suitable reading for anyone wishing to develop a genuine understanding of dental materials.

A. J. Barber

APPLICATIONS OF ORTHODONTIC MINI-IMPLANTS



J. S. Lee, K. K. Kim, Y-C. Park,
R. L. Vanarsdall
UK: Quintessence
price £89.00; pp 286
ISBN 032304574X

High anchorage demanding cases involving distal movement of molars or extrusion and intrusion of teeth require careful planning and anchorage control. Traditionally both intra-oral and extra-oral methods are used in both non-extraction and extraction cases. Unfortunately often the orthodontist has to rely on patient compliance ie wear of headgear to ensure unwanted tooth movements and loss of space does not occur. Within the literature mini-implants have also been described as mini-screws, micro-implants, skeletal anchorage devices, temporary anchorage devices and orthodontic implants. Mini-implants have been recently introduced within orthodontics for skeletal based anchorage. Although the long-term research/data are still to be reported, they have the potential to provide the ultimate anchorage control, and allow forces to be applied to teeth in both vertical and A-P planes without any unwanted consequences.

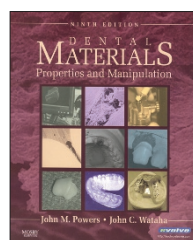
This book is described as an introduction into the use of mini-implants. It is divided into 11 well written chapters which include a historical overview of mini-implants, surgical procedures for the placement of mini-implants and mechanics. A particularly useful

chapter covers treatment planning. This excellent part of the textbook describes the risks and benefits of placing mini-implants in various intra-oral locations, precautions to take in the maxilla and mandible, a guide to selecting an appropriate insertion site and commonly encountered problems and their solutions. The text is supported with clearly drawn line diagrams/graphics and good quality clinical photographs. At the end of each chapter the references used within the text are listed. This includes both unpublished and published clinical data by the authors as well as refereed journals. The majority of the clinical cases described in this textbook are based on the authors' experience of particular mini-implant system (ORLUS system). Ideally a more comprehensive textbook may have described other systems, however, with the relative short history of mini-implants and the lack of long-term clinical trials this is only a small point which should not distract the reader from an otherwise very good textbook.

In summary this textbook is a very good introduction to an exciting and potentially beneficial treatment modality within orthodontics. The text in this book is uncomplicated and easy to understand. Further long-term studies and clinical trials will be published and this textbook will require future updating, however, in its current state it would be of benefit to both trainee orthodontists and experienced orthodontic practitioners as a quick and easy to use reference and clinical guide.

J. Seehra

DENTAL MATERIALS: PROPERTIES AND MANIPULATION (9TH EDITION)



J. M. Powers
UK: Elsevier
price £31.99; pp 384
ISBN 9780323049641

The main topics of this A5-sized book are: amalgam, cements, impression materials, alloys, polymers, aesthetic dental materials, ceramics and implants.

This is aimed squarely at undergraduates who are being introduced to dental materials for the first time. Each chapter begins with an objectives page and delves through each topic with plenty of diagrams, photos and helpful summary boxes alongside the main text. The main text itself has numerous sub-headings so that it is not too overwhelming. There is a final quick review at the end of each chapter and this is followed by a self-test section which includes multiple choice and short answer questions. There is also a bibliography but this can be quite sparse. The glossary at the end of the book provides simple, quick definitions and can be quite useful.

The actual text itself is quite basic and in some cases can be outright incorrect due to an element of 'dumbing down'. However, for some dental students in the early stages of their teachings this might be a blessing. It quite competently walks the reader through potentially confusing topics such as properties of dental materials where the maths and equations involved are explained simply and with little confusion. Some of the text does feel outdated – the section on aesthetic dental materials only briefly refers to composites which is rather surprising. Another criticism of the book is that although there is a self-test section, no correct answers are provided, which I believe is a major omission and of little help to undergraduates who may not be sure of the correct answers.

The book is written by American authors and this is evident from their writing. It frequently refers to materials or products that are unheard of in this country and many of its references are from journals that would be difficult to track down for further reading. The book is linked to an 'evolve' website which has illustrations, movies and other resources for both students and tutors alike. This is not an easy website to use though and requires lots of patience.

In summary, I would recommend this book for undergraduates who are just starting to learn about dental materials, perhaps in conjunction with another book. It is clear and concise in the basics but it is far, far too basic for final year students or those who have qualified.

K. Voruganti