

# Book reviews

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## INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH IN THE HEALTH SCIENCES (5TH EDITION)



S. Polgar, S. A. Thomas  
UK: Elsevier  
price £28.99; pp 344  
ISBN 9780443074295

This is the fifth edition of this textbook, which was first published in 1988. It is written by Stephen Polgar, a Senior Lecturer at the School of Public Health, La Trobe University in Melbourne, and Shane A. Thomas, Director of Primary Care Research, Faculty of Medicine, Monash University, Australia.

The book aims to provide readers with 'a succinct, yet comprehensive overview of health research as an integrated, problem-solving process'. The fifth edition offers a few updates from the fourth, including two new chapters on qualitative methods and systematic reviews. The layout takes the reader logically through the stages of research: planning, design, data collection and statistics, directed by a clear contents, index and glossary. Each chapter is neatly composed with a summary, discussion, and self assessment questions at the end, to facilitate learning. Answers to these questions are provided at the end of the book.

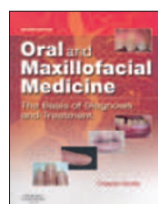
Early chapter focus is purely on scientific method, research design, planning and data collection, with later chapters dealing with interpretation of data (descriptive statistics, inferential statistics, and dissemination and critical evaluation of research). The end of the book contains a glossary, along with further questions and answers, in a self-

assessment format. Although this topic can normally be quite dry, the book uses colour and presents many examples (for example, studies on the progression of AIDS), tables and graphs, which help to enrich the text. These, along with a well organised breakdown of subheadings, provide an easy read. This book may not be of great interest to the general dental practitioner who is not involved with research, but will certainly be of use to undergraduates studying their statistics module, and hospital staff involved in research.

In summary this book is well written and concise. The text can be difficult to digest in places but this reflects more the subject matter than the manner of writing. One criticism would be the limited referral to referencing within the text. On the whole, I feel the authors have managed to make a dry subject rather interesting. I would recommend this book to dental students or to postgraduate practitioners wishing to become involved in research.

G. Williams

## ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL MEDICINE: THE BASIS OF DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT (2ND EDITION)



C. Scully  
UK: Elsevier  
price £44.99; pp 408  
ISBN 9780443068188

This second edition of *Oral and maxillofacial medicine...* aims to improve on the first by providing new clinical photos and material and expanding the further reading sources.

The book is laid out in six colour coded sections for ease of re-reference after the initial use. Section 1 deals with the fundamental principles of patient management and begins with the initial assessment and consultation of the patient where histories are taken and clinical examination begins. Investigations of a disease process are then discussed beginning with the more typical such as radiographs, blood tests and biopsy. The section then continues to enlighten the reader about the less well known investigation techniques and considers the advantages and disadvantages of their use. Finally, treatment is considered from methods of fluoride delivery to antiretroviral drugs and where applicable gives a brief summary of the pharmacokinetic modes of action. This prepares the reader for the next two sections which describe the common complaints and important pathological processes of the oral cavity. The subsections begin with key points that the user should use as an aid to memory when the condition presents.

Each lesion is comprehensively explained and summarised in boxes throughout each chapter. The pathological processes are further clarified using diagrams which allow the user to fully understand the cellular process manifested in the clinical photos. Algorithms aid the diagnostic process for the more inexperienced, with the typical presentations mapped out and suited ideally for *viva voce* examinations. The more advanced reader can gain from the text by learning further about the biochemical processes of selected conditions with important papers referenced at the end of each section. With the amount of advanced academic detail, it would be

easy to forget about the most important factor in dentistry, the patient. However, this has not been overlooked and most subsections contain a *pro forma* 'patient information sheet' to enable the production or revision of ones currently used.

Section 4 considers HIV, iatrogenic disease and orofacial manifestations of specific systemic diseases. Sections 5 and 6 end the book with a dictionary of eponymous conditions and adverse drug reactions. Whilst I feel the final two chapters are more for the hospital based dentist, they nevertheless provide completeness and answer most of the questions the majority of dentists will have.

To summarise, I would recommend this book for the more senior student or general and hospital dental practitioner. The text is an excellent reference and gives addresses for websites that may be used as an aid to further research into the subject. It should be essential reading material for these groups and is likely to be of use for many years to come.

A. Flett

### CLINICAL SUCCESS IN SURGICAL AND ORTHODONTIC TREATMENT OF IMPACTED TEETH



J.-M. Korbendau, A. Patti

UK: Quintessence  
price £51.00; pp 136  
ISBN 2912550440

This book is written by an Associate Professor of the Faculty of Dentistry in Paris, and the Director of the International Centre for the Study of Clinical Orthodontics in Verona.

It is a very well presented paperback book which aims to address the problems associated with impacted teeth in children and adolescents, from both orthodontic and surgical perspectives. There is a brief, slightly unnecessary contents page folded into the front cover, a more detailed contents page after the acknowledgements and preface, and a thorough index.

The book is divided into seven chapters: stages of eruption of permanent teeth; orthodontic and radiographic

assessment of impacted teeth; preventive treatment of impactions; criteria for choosing orthodontic and surgical protocols; impacted maxillary canines: palatal approach; impacted maxillary canines: buccal approach; and impacted mandibular teeth. Each chapter is divided into clear sections. The chapters clearly go through the stages needed by practitioners for managing impacted teeth, starting with the stages of tooth development and the various factors that lead to tooth impaction, and leading to making an adequate diagnosis and treatment plan. The book steers more towards preventive orthodontic strategies, however, there is a good mixture of orthodontic and surgical information, and the surgical procedures are explained and shown in ample detail.

It is a very visual book with lots of good colour clinical photographs, including stages of surgery, well labelled colour diagrams, radiographs, and computerised tomography scans.

In summary, this book is well laid out and easy to read, however, it is not the easiest of books to navigate around as a reference. It is a very good general overview of the management of impacted teeth in relation to orthodontic and surgical management.

E. Gibson

### 21ST CENTURY IMAGING



K. Horner, N. Drage, D. Brettle

UK: Quintessence  
price £28.00; pp 180  
ISBN 9781850970972

This is the first edition of this textbook. It is written by Keith Horner, Professor of Dental and Maxillofacial Imaging at Manchester University, Nicholas Drage, Consultant in Dental and Maxillofacial Radiology at Cardiff University and David Brettle, Head of Radiological Physics at Leeds University.

The book aims to provide readers with 'a comprehensive introduction to state-of-the-art dental imaging, in particular to the complexities of dental radiology and the advanced techniques available for cross-sectional imaging'. Being part of the Quintessentials for General

Dental Practitioners Series, this book covers basic principles and key issues in all aspects of dentistry, and is certainly in line with the high standard of many other books in the series. The layout is logical, initial chapters dealing with the historical perspective, intra-oral radiograph equipment and imaging, panoramic equipment and imaging, and conventional image receptors. Later chapters deal with digital imaging (both direct and indirect), image storage, handling, and implant imaging. Each chapter is neatly composed with a summary (under different guises, either key points or concluding comments), which help to clarify newly acquired information. This topic, obviously very pertinent for general dental practitioners is visually enhanced by the use of copious photographs, diagrams, tables and charts. These, along with a well organised breakdown of subheadings, provide an easy read. This book I feel will be of great interest to the general dental practitioner who needs refreshing on radiology theory, or is considering updating radiography equipment.

In summary this book is well written and concise. The text is easy to digest and deals exceptionally well with fairly complex computer issues which might otherwise confuse luddites. On the whole, I feel the authors have managed to make an important and rapidly developing field very user friendly. I would recommend this book to dental students or to dentists in general practice.

G. Williams