

Book reviews

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THE PHYSICAL SIGNS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE. AN EVIDENCE-BASED REVIEW AND GUIDANCE FOR BEST PRACTICE



Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health and The Royal College of Physicians of London and its Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine
UK: Lavenham Press (see www.rcpch.ac.uk to order)
ISBN 9781906579005

This is the first edition of this textbook. It is the culmination of five years of input by a working group of clinical experts and specialists in evidence-based medicine. The book provides clinicians with an up-to-date background on this disturbing subject, and is also a foundation upon which to base their clinical decision making. It addresses the strengths and limitations of currently available evidence, and highlights the significant shortcomings of certain key areas of research.

It is divided into nine main sections: Introduction, Responding to concerns, Methodology, Genital signs of sexual abuse in girls, Anal signs of child sexual abuse, Genital signs of sexual abuse in boys, Sexually transmitted infections, The extent of anogenital signs at examination and Good practice guidelines.

The introduction provides the reader with a broad perspective on the definition and prevalence of child sexual abuse; it outlines the objectives of the working group and contains a brief summary of the book's layout and recommended method of use. Following on, the second chapter provides a practical and concise general introduction on the initial management of a disclosure of child sexual

abuse. The methodology chapter highlights how evidence was collated and appraised, and any limitations encountered. Chapters four to eight are subsectioned to follow a specific format: a short non-evidence based introduction including anatomical description and illustrations, an evidence-based section related to the specific topic, helpful lists and summaries of key messages collated from the literature, 'issues for clinical practice' identified by the project group, and a summary and conclusion. Chapter Nine outlines 'non-evidence based good practice guidelines' and is perhaps the most clinically useful section, covering all practical aspects of performing a child assessment. It is helpfully laid out in bullet point lists, with flow diagram summaries to aid visualisation.

In keeping with its evidence-based theme, the book outlines key areas in need of good quality research in the future. It contains a glossary of words used and a helpful quick-reference section with frequently asked questions and the relevant sections of the book which address these. It concludes with a full list of references used.

Whilst the content is entirely in keeping with the title, the book is very focused on the physical signs of child sexual abuse seen in the genital and anal areas. A brief mention of the emotional and behavioural signs of sexual abuse and the general signs of physical abuse would complement this book well. These features are usually more obvious to health care professionals, and in the absence of a disclosure of child sexual abuse by the victim or someone known to them, are likely to be the first warning signs which would cause a

clinician concern. Intra-oral signs of sexually-transmitted diseases are rare, but have been documented; the lack of good evidence relating to these features is reflected in the extent of their mention in the text.

In summary, this book provides a much-needed wealth of information for clinicians who treat children. Its practical format allows health care workers, who may encounter victims of child sexual abuse, to manage such encounters appropriately; this would include dentists working in multi-disciplinary teams caring for large numbers of children. More importantly this book is based on evidence, and highlights specific areas which are still in need of research.

P. N. Acharya
D. S. Gill

CONTEMPORARY PERIODONTAL SURGERY: AN ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO THE ART BEHIND THE SCIENCE



G. Bateman, S. Saha,
I. L. C. Chapple
UK: Quintessence
price £28.00; pp 204
ISBN 9781850971238

This is the first edition of this textbook. It is written by Geoffrey Bateman, Specialist Registrar in Restorative Dentistry for South Birmingham Primary Care Trust and Honorary Lecturer for University of Birmingham School of Dentistry, Shuva Saha, Specialist Registrar in Restorative Dentistry for South Birmingham Primary Care Trust

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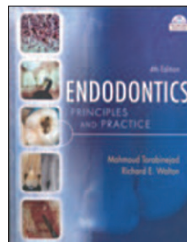
This book aims to provide readers with 'an evidence-based and highly illustrative approach to a comprehensive repertoire of surgical procedures, including basic principles, resective surgery, regenerative techniques and periodontal/peri-implant plastic surgery'. Being part of the Quintessentials Dental Practice Series, it maintains the high standard provided throughout the collection. The layout is logical, the first two chapters dealing with the principles and practice of periodontal surgery, in terms of case selection, planning, and basic surgical principles. Further chapters deal with specific surgical specialities, including management of gingival overgrowth, surgical root surface debridement, regenerative periodontal techniques, periradicular surgery, resective hard tissue surgery, crown-lengthening surgery, mucogingival grafting procedures, and adjunctive implant surgery (ridge augmentation and peri-implant soft tissue surgery). Each chapter is neatly composed with an aim, outcome, introduction, and most chapters have a key points summary, which aids in distilling new information. The written information is enhanced by way of photographs, diagrams and tables. All photographs (excluding those of radiographs) are in colour and are of very high quality. These, along with a methodical layout, provide an easy, interesting read.

In summary this book is well written and concise. The text is easy to digest and deals exceptionally well with many complex surgical approaches which

might make a general practitioner nervous. I feel the authors have managed to simplify a field which I would have previously considered quite difficult and specialised. I would recommend this book to dental students studying periodontal surgery or to dentists in general practice wishing to become more involved in this field. This book helped to clarify some sticking points that I had revising for my finals as an undergraduate.

G. Williams

ENDODONTICS: PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE, 4TH EDITION



M. Torabinejad,
R. E. Walton
UK: Elsevier
price £57.99; pp 496
ISBN 9781416038511

In this edition of *Endodontics: principles and practice* first of all you notice the impressive accolade of authors involved, with no less than the father of MTA as an editor. The book itself is strikingly attractive with a robust hardback cover and glossy pages. Plentiful colour photographs of impressive relevance and quality hold the reader's interest throughout.

The text is organised systematically and comprehensively covers the principles of endodontics, however, certain chapters lack concision and appear to build upon the assumption that the reader has very little knowledge, if any. Advantageously, as a result of this, the book is very readable and is consistently clear.

The content, as the authors mention in their preface 'is not designed to be a cookbook'. It does not provide a step-by-

step guide on how to perform endodontics, rather a basis upon which to build your understanding of the subject. It is specifically aimed toward students and general dental practitioners and achieves the level of an excellent final year student or GDP wishing to develop his interest in endodontics. It is certainly not comprehensive and does not attempt to attract a specialist audience. Little text is dedicated to rotary endodontics or different systems available; however, the principles of such aspects are covered adequately.

With the book is a 'companion DVD'. This DVD contains procedural videos and chapter review questions. The questions are available within the text but the videos provide an invaluable source of educational material. The DVD is very user friendly and doesn't try to surreptitiously install items onto your PC.

The chapter review questions are set by endodontists not involved in the writing of the chapter itself. This provides the reader with questions that test understanding as opposed to simply referring to the appropriate text.

The authors provide the readers with the opportunity of further reading of their evidence with plentiful references for each chapter, mostly from respected, well known journals. The papers referenced are contemporaneous and relevant to the chapter subject.

In summary, the book retails at close to £60 and seems to be well justified in this price. It does exactly what it says on the tin by providing only the principles and practice of endodontics; this book stays readable and reasonable for dental student and practitioner alike. Not an essential read, rather an interesting and informative one. To be recommended.

C. Millen