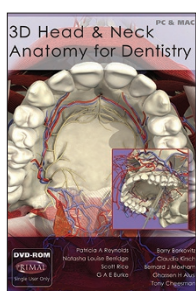


Book reviews

Books, videos, CD-ROMs, DVDs and any other relevant items submitted for a review in the BDJ should be addressed to:

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3D HEAD AND NECK ANATOMY FOR DENTISTRY (DVD)



P. Reynolds, N. Berridge,
S. Rice, G. Burke,
B. Berkovitz, C. Kirsch,
B. Moxham, G. Alusi,
T. Cheesman (eds)

UK: Primal Pictures (www.primalpictures.com)

price £180.00

ISBN 9781904369837

We all recognise that the students we teach exhibit a range of different learning styles meaning that we expect them to respond differently to material presented to them in different formats. Consequently, this DVD providing, as it does, another means by which students can learn anatomy, is very welcome.

The DVD loaded readily onto my computer and proved very easy to use and intuitive to navigate around and has considerable functionality. At the core of the product is a series of 3D diagrammatic reconstructions of the head and neck presented as a series of layers with structures being added progressively as you navigate through these layers. You can zoom in or out of the images, rotate the layers, save or print the images. Another section of the DVD contains a series of MRI images in the axial, coronal and sagittal planes that are accompanied by 3D reconstructions and these can also be manipulated by the user. The MRI images are in a part of the DVD that the authors call the slide section. This section also contains static images of cadaveric prosections, anatomical line diagrams and clinical slides. There are further sections containing movies and animations that illustrate selected muscle actions and movements of the temporomandibular joint. These illus-

trations are accompanied by a wealth of text describing the anatomy and dental clinical correlations. There are search facilities, a comprehensive help section and an introductory tutorial.

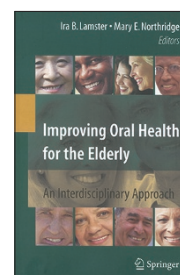
The best parts of this DVD are very good indeed. The coverage of skull anatomy and the neck is especially good. The ability to navigate through the layers and rotate the images enables a fuller appreciation of anatomical relationships. Especially useful in this section was the ability when highlighting a structure, to have it named and then to be able to read some text describing its anatomy. However, what was not always easy to follow were the relationships between muscles within a region. This was especially true within the floor of the mouth, obviously an important area of dental anatomy. It would be helpful, when highlighting a structure, to have its relationships explained in the text. The slides illustrating the cadaveric prosections were exceptionally clear and represent a considerable advance on the traditional static atlas format. The ability to obtain the name of a structure by passing the mouse over it is extremely useful. It is disappointing that, in contrast to the 3D reconstructions, highlighting a structure does not also cause the textbox to appear. The other observation to make in relation to the cadaveric slides is that they do not cover the full range of structures visible in the head and neck, again a notable omission being within the floor of the mouth. The MRI images are very useful to have alongside the anatomical reconstructions; perhaps a future edition would also consider adding cone beam tomographic images as their use in dental diagnostics is increasing. One particular

difficulty with this DVD which presents a problem when using it in undergraduate teaching is the extraordinary level of detail. I appreciate the dilemma of the authors here in wanting to present a product that will be of use to a range of professionals including teachers. However, the level of detail could easily overwhelm the average undergraduate and it would be important to use this DVD selectively for students beginning to learn anatomy rather than relying on it as a primary source.

In summary, this is a very attractive product that can be recommended to dental professionals, dental teachers, students on postgraduate courses and, with appropriate support, to undergraduate students.

S. McHanwell

IMPROVING ORAL HEALTH FOR THE ELDERLY: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH



I. B. Lamster, M. E. Northridge (eds)

USA: Springer

price £48.50; pp 150

ISBN 9780387743363

Oral health for the elderly is not a book title that would immediately draw my attention; however, having read the book I feel I misjudged its value. The reader is treated to an organised and systematic approach to the subject and the book is both factual and thought provoking. Some areas challenge our conscience and understanding of the particular dental needs of the older population. The authors remind the reader that older

adults are at increased risk of poor oral health because of access to care including physical and cognitive impairments, accessibility for wheelchairs and dental staff not prepared to treat them. The text is peppered with references that support the opinions of the writers and give weight to the statements that indicate that older people are living longer and are forming a greater proportion of the population. The authors also state that they disproportionately suffer from oral disease but access dentistry less than their needs specify.

This book would appeal to dental healthcare workers employed in dental public health or special care dentistry, with some of the book's focus being centred on epidemiology and planning the service provision for the future. For dentists working in special care dentistry or those who have an interest in gerodontology, it provides a good source of reference for systemic diseases that commonly affect older adults and the impact this has upon their oral health.

The book is laid out in four specific chapters with the first section covering dental public health issues. It discusses access and other difficulties faced by the older patient such as differing disease patterns, the financial burden and mobility problems. The second part covers health and medical conditions commonly associated with older people and includes prevalence, aetiology, signs and symptoms. The third chapter describes how medical conditions affect the oral health of older individuals and considers tooth loss and options for replacement. The final section makes recommendations to the profession for future provision of good oral care to an increasing population of older people.

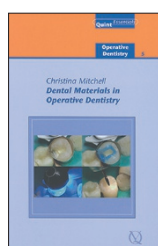
Although the book has been written for the American market, the authors make observations that are relevant to the UK; however, it requires the reader to carry out some further research if they need to quote facts and figures pertaining to this country. The book also covers polypharmacy, reminding the reader that older people often take a cocktail of drugs to maintain their health. Some of the drugs listed in the book have a different name to those listed in the British National Formulary and the reader

needs to check for the correct British name for the corresponding drug and any possible drug interactions.

That said, the book is well written and encourages us to consider the older person holistically. It is an essential read for dental healthcare workers who treat, plan and care for older adults and whose future dental treatment will require more thought and consideration around their complex needs.

R. J. McGeoch

DENTAL MATERIALS IN OPERATIVE DENTISTRY



C. Mitchell
UK: Quintessence
price £28.00; pp 104
ISBN 9781850971290

Dental materials science has traditionally been a challenging subject to present to both undergraduates and postgraduate dental practitioners. This new addition to the Quintessentials series embraces the task and succeeds in being an easily read and informative text. First impressions might indicate that the apparent small size of the book suggests a superficial approach to the subject matter, but the level of detail is entirely appropriate to both student and experienced practitioner. Any dentist is able to recognise that if they are to place a material in a patient's mouth during operative dentistry, then it is entirely reasonable to know what is in it. This book gives an excellent overview in this respect, addressing the clinical relevance of a wide range of materials and the underpinning science that gives the rationale for their use. This is achieved without the need for an understanding of complex chemistry, and the simplicity of approach is refreshing compared with other dental materials science texts. Clinical applications and techniques are clearly linked to theoretical concepts, and the text is clear and easy to read. Each section is accompanied by extensive illustrations and clear diagrams, with a concise and relevant reference list. The range of materials covered is restricted to operative dentistry and as

such the full spectrum of dental materials is not addressed. However, this is not the intention of the book and overall, the author has achieved their aim of providing a concise summary of the subject area in a most accessible fashion. The materials scientist will find the level of detail superficial, but the book is clearly intended for the clinician. To this end, there are many photographs of 'clinical' procedures, and perhaps the only criticism of the book is that more of this type of illustration could have been included to support the underlying science. It is certain that this text will be of particular use to undergraduates, but will also find favour within a wider readership.

A. J. Crothers

If you are interested in reviewing a book for the BDJ, please email manuscripts@nature.com.