Book reviews

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Laura Pacey,
Assistant Editor,
British Dental Journal,
Nature Publishing Group,
4-6 Crinan Street,
London,
N1 9XW

OROFACIAL PAIN: A GUIDE TO MEDICATIONS AND MANAGEMENT

G. T. Clark, R. A. Dionne
Wiley-Blackwell
price £64.95; pp 408
ISBN 9780813815596

This publication has been composed by a number of specialists in the field of oral facial pain and successfully targets the experienced clinician working closely with facial pain patients.

I expected this text to provide a broad insight into the drug, behavioural and physical management of the most common facial pain complaints. On first glance I was concerned by both the size and weight of the book, coupled with a less than inspiring front cover. The book places a strong bias on treatment through medication with only a light touch applied to the behavioural and physical management of these patients.

The book commences with a series of tables – referencing the 30 most common oral facial pain conditions. These tables provide a brief overview of the clinical features, cause and diagnostic testing of each complaint. They act as a valuable reference tool for less experienced clinicians looking for a short synopsis of the most common pain complaints.

The eight chapters that follow, in contrast, proved to be tedious. There is a comprehensive discussion of the drugs used to treat the various facial pain disorders, requiring a sound knowledge and understanding of both physiology and pharmacology.

The general layout of each chapter is very good, each containing a short introduction about the class of drug,

followed by separate accounts of each individual drug. The format lays out the action, indication, dose, adverse effects and efficacy of each drug into distinct, easy to follow sections. Yet I would consider there to be a lack of visual stimulation throughout, leading to a dull read.

Chapters 12 to 20 explored the management of conditions, with chapters 12, 14, 18, 19 and 20 being the most informative and beneficial, covering topics such as oral mucositis, non-neoplastic oral ulceration, burning mouth syndrome, TMJ disorders and oral motor disorders.

A great effort has been made throughout this book to present the evidence base for the management of facial pain patients and this is very commendable. The provision of a website hosting an excellent question and answer section for each chapter is also a worthwhile addition.

Overall, this book, whilst exhaustive at times, is well researched and very informative. I would consider it to be a rich reference source for any clinician wishing to explore this subject in more detail.

F. Raven

RISK ASSESSMENT AND ORAL DIAGNOSTICS IN CLINICAL DENTISTRY

D. J. Fischer,
N. S. Treister, A. Pinto
Sorejaw
price £43.99; pp 240
ISBN 9780813821184

This compact, colourful and aesthetically pleasing book with a methodi-

cal structure, clear print and tables throughout is brought to us by a trio of professors from three US dental hospitals, providing systematic and digestible information, making it a key reference and revision guide to both the undergraduate and postgraduate dental surgeon. Whilst covering many clinical topics, the primary subject area is oral medicine, which is integrated clinically throughout.

The layout of the book encourages a logical approach towards patient care, especially when dealing with complex medical histories. The book is divided into two main parts, one focusing on risk assessment and the other on diagnosis of orofacial conditions, with succinct introductions at the beginning of each subdividing chapter. Part one is a very useful revision tool, explaining the importance of medical histories with further sections covering potential for bleeding, infection and poor wound healing. This section helps when assessing patients, with ample information on poly-pharmacy and interpreting complicated medical histories. Part two adds substance to the topics introduced earlier in the book and is useful for those wishing to enhance their knowledge in these key areas.

Clear tables showing salient information, such as interactions of the most commonly prescribed drugs by dental surgeons, are used throughout the book and a number of 'alert boxes' provide an easily accessible source of information. This book addresses one area where so many clinical books fall short, with the number and quality of its colour clinical photographs. High quality colour photographs, including those of clinical conditions, radiographs, other scans and